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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
10 March 2008—20 March 2008

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10 March 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 10 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today laid before the House amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (the GDPO) and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990. These amendments introduce a standard application form for planning permission and associated consent regimes and the new procedures for the validation of applications.

The Government are introducing these measures to help streamline and simplify the planning process. In the past, Government policy allowed local planning authorities to use their own application forms. This resulted in variations across the country and created difficulties for applicants, in particular those that applied to more than one local planning authority in complying with requests for information in different formats.

As part of the planning reform process initiated by the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and developed further in last year's Planning White Paper: "Planning for a Sustainable Future", the Government are improving the planning application process with the introduction of a standard application form. This will help to speed up the planning process and give applicants more certainty about the information they need to provide.

The form will be available in both electronic and paper formats. It will cover a full range of application types and consent regimes including:

Householder consents;

Outline and full planning permission and approval of reserved matters;

Listed building consent;

Conservation area consent;

Advertisement consent;

Consent under Tree Preservation Orders and Notification of proposed works to trees in conservation areas;

Lawful Development Certificates;

Applications for Prior Notification/Approval under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (the GPDO); and

Removal or variation of conditions.

Increased electronic submission of applications will reduce the costs associated with their submission.

Alongside the form we are introducing new validation arrangements that will provide clarity about the information that needs to be submitted with an application. The new arrangements provide for a mandatory national list specified in the GDPO which will apply to all types of application. This includes, for example, site plan and drawings. In addition, applications will need to be accompanied by the information requirements specified on local planning authorities' local lists. The Department's "Validation of Planning Applications—Guidance for Local Planning Authorities" published on 7 December encouraged local planning authorities to consult on and publish their list of information requirements on their websites by 6 April 2008. The statutory instrument specifies that where an application does not meet the national and published local requirements, the local planning authority will not be required to validate it.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television Licence Fee Regulations 2008

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): On 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 933, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) announced the planned annual increases in the TV licence fee under the BBC's six-year funding settlement, which began in April 2007. In line with that settlement, from 1 April 2008, the fee for a colour television licence will rise by 3 per cent. to £139.50 and the fee for a black and white licence will rise by 3 per cent. to £47.00. I have today laid before the House the regulations necessary to bring these new fees into force.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 11 March 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Admissions and Parental Preferences for 2008

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008, which were laid before Parliament on 15 January, committed the Government for the first time to publishing local authority by local authority data on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools. This statement fulfils that commitment. On Monday 3 March, which was national offer day, nearly 570,000 families found out where their children will start secondary school this September.

Today we are publishing data, showing that across the country 81.6 per cent. of families received an offer at their first preference school, 8.9 per cent. were offered a place at their second preference school and 93.9 per cent. were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools. These figures are based on returns from 138 out of 149 local authorities. In addition we are publishing unverified data from a further 11 local authorities and once verified we will publish further updates to Parliament.

The new school admissions code prohibits the over-subscription criterion known as "first preference first", where schools gave higher priority to those who put them down as their first preference. For many parents this effectively meant that only their first preference mattered, and if they did not gain a place at their first preference school they risked wasting their other preferences.

Now this practice is no longer part of the admissions process, and parents are no longer deterred from expressing their true preferences we might have expected the proportion of first preferences offered to reduce. However, comparing data collected this year with the results of a survey conducted last year, the proportion of families gaining a place at their first preference school has remained broadly the same, and furthermore there has been an improvement in the numbers of families obtaining an offer at one of their preferred schools.

There is considerable variation nationally. In the majority of local authority areas, more than 80 per cent. of parents have been offered a place in their first preference school. By way of contrast 64 per cent. of parents in Greater London have been offered a place at their first preference school.

Where parents do not receive an offer of a place at their first preference school, this does not necessarily mean that they are dissatisfied with their second or third preference. Recent research by Sheffield Hallam university revealed that where a child secured a place at their first preference school, 95 per cent. of parents were satisfied and where they did not, 82 per cent. were satisfied.

We are concerned about the small percentage of parents without an offer corresponding to any preference. We expect local authorities to analyse the reasons for this and to work with families, schools and, where appropriate, their neighbouring authorities to ensure that all parents are able to express meaningful preferences.

We cannot guarantee that every parent will be offered a place in their first preference school. Nevertheless, because of the huge strides we have taken in improving secondary schools, many more families find themselves in the position of being able to choose from a number of good schools for their children. Our first priority is to ensure that all schools are good schools.

Making a reality of choice for all families means creating more good schools and refusing to accept low standards. Today, there are far more good schools than in 1997 and standards have gone up across the board. There are now 891 secondary schools where 70 per cent. or more children gain 5 A*-C GCSEs, compared to 83 in 1997. We are enabling the best schools to export their formula for success and support their local communities by partnering other schools in their area, sponsoring academies, or forming trusts. Our aim is to ensure that there are good school places across the country and in the right places for parents to choose from.

Ten years ago, a child had a 50-50 chance of going to a low-performing secondary school which was unacceptable. Since then the number of schools with under 25 per cent. of pupils with five good GCSEs has dropped from 616 to 17. Furthermore, we have announced the national challenge to lift all 638 schools not achieving 30 per cent. 5 A*-Cs at GCSE including English and Maths above that threshold by 2012. Options for schools include becoming an academy, joining a trust, federating with a high-performing school or receiving intensive support from experienced headteachers.

Parents have the right of appeal against any application that has been turned down; and over the summer, local authorities and schools will be re-allocating places that become available where others have moved address or chosen a different education for their children. We are also working to ensure that the admission process is fair and transparent for all parents and children.

School Admissions (Strengthening the System)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today the Schools Minister has made a statement on parental preferences and school admissions for 2008, and published for the first time local authority by local authority data on the allocation of school places by parental preference.

This is the first year that places have been allocated under the new school admissions code that was introduced by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and came into force in February 2007.

The new school admissions code prohibits those criteria and practices that could be used by schools to unfairly select children. The new code has been widely welcomed across the education sector and by faith groups.

All admission authorities, which comprise local authorities and the governing bodies of schools which are their own admission authority, are required to act in accordance with the code. This means they must comply with its mandatory provisions and take account of its guidelines when setting their arrangements. Admission authorities must also comply with other aspects of the law, such as the prohibition on interviews and the requirement to give highest priority to children in care.

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schools have a duty to publish their admissions arrangements for consultation, and under the code, local authorities have duties to refer arrangements they believe to be unlawful or unfair to the schools adjudicator. He then has the power to change unfair and unlawful arrangements.

Admission authorities were required to consult on their proposed arrangements for 2008 by 1 March 2007. After this the arrangements had to be determined by 15 April and then published within two weeks to allow any objections to be lodged with the schools adjudicator. The period for objections was six weeks long and expired in June 2007. The schools adjudicator, in his annual report, published on 1 November 2007, revealed that he had received 79 objections about admission arrangements that did not comply with the code or the law.

Under the legislation, the responsibility for ensuring schools comply with the code rests with local authorities and the governing bodies of own admission authority schools. However, in December 2007 we said in our children's plan that we would monitor the impact of the code. In January the Schools Minister Jim Knight wrote to all admission authorities and local authorities reminding them that they must comply fully with their statutory requirements.

In January I also asked officials to undertake, for the first time and for internal purposes, an analysis of the published admission arrangements for 2008 in three local authority areas in order to sample the level of compliance. Having considered the evidence gathered from this sample I believe it is right that it should be made public and acted upon now.

We examined the published admission arrangements for three areas—Northamptonshire, Manchester and Barnet—on the basis that these represented a London borough, a shire county and a metropolitan authority for which no objections had been referred to the schools adjudicator.

Initial evidence across these three local authorities suggests that the large majority of schools appear to be complying with the code, including an overwhelming majority of academies and schools where local authorities are the admission authority. However, a significant minority of schools in our sample appear not to be compliant with the code, of which a disproportionate number are voluntary aided or foundation schools.

Practices revealed in our survey which are non-compliant with the code include: schools asking parents to commit to making financial contributions as a condition of admission; not giving looked-after children the priority required by law; asking about the marital status, occupational or financial status of parents; giving priority on the basis of family members who are not siblings attending the school; and interviewing children.

The Department has now written to each of the three local authorities covered by this initial work, and to the governing bodies of all voluntary aided and foundation schools in these areas who appear not to have complied with the code or the law, asking them to verify what we have found. Once verified, we will present the detailed information to Parliament.

However, it is right, based on this initial evidence that we take immediate steps now to ensure that all schools across the country that are not currently complying with the law are fully compliant for their 2009 admissions; in addition, and based upon advice from leading counsel, there are steps I can take now affecting the 2008 admissions procedures to ensure greater compliance with the code but without disrupting and delaying the current process of admissions in a way that would be unfair and disproportionate, adversely affecting parents, children and schools across the country.

STRENGTHENING THE ADMISSIONS SYSTEM FOR 2009

> All admission authorities should by now have completed consultation on their proposed admission arrangements for September 2009 and must determine their arrangements by 15 April 2008. Local authorities have a duty under the code to refer objections to the schools adjudicator and I expect them to act where it appears that determined admission arrangements do not comply with the statutory requirements.
>
> Other admission authorities, admissions forums and parents also have the power to object, and from this year religious authorities also have the power to object to the admission arrangements of schools for which they are responsible. The major faith bodies welcomed the code, and I know that they want to play their part in ensuring all schools adopt arrangements that are transparent and fair.
>
> We will now take the following steps:

1: *Strengthening the role of local authorities*

> It is right and in keeping with their responsibility as commissioners of children's services that local authorities have oversight of admission policies in their areas. We will introduce an amendment to the Education and Skills Bill at report stage to place a further duty on local authorities to report each year on the legality, fairness and effectiveness of all school admission arrangements in their area. The report will be sent to the adjudicator after the admission arrangements have been determined and before the end of the proposed new statutory objections period. This will ensure that admission forums and parents are properly informed and the schools adjudicator has the information he needs to investigate and ensure compliance with the code.

2: *Improving Admission Forums*

> Admission forums have a vital role in monitoring admission arrangements. We will consult in the coming months on what further steps we can take to ensure that forums operate as effectively as possible.

3: *Consulting and engaging communities and parents more effectively*

> Admission arrangements should be subject to proper scrutiny and discussion at local level while they are being determined. This should include an effective consultation that includes all those who have an interest in admission policies, especially parents and when major changes are proposed. We will also amend the Education and Skills Bill at report stage to take powers to enhance consultation arrangements and will consult on detailed proposals in the summer.

4: *Properly informing parents*

> To ensure all parents are properly informed about their rights in this system, we will publish a guide for parents on the admission and appeals codes early next month. This will set out what parents can expect from the admissions system; give them information on how to object to admission arrangements that appear not to comply with the law; and signpost them to information and support when applying for schools. The guide will also outline the admission appeals process.

5: *Extending the role of the Schools Adjudicator*

> To ensure that parents and local authorities have sufficient time to check proposed arrangements and to refer an objection we will urgently seek to amend regulations to extend the period in which objections may be referred from six weeks to 16 weeks starting from this year 2008. I am also asking the schools adjudicator to report to me on steps he is taking to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in respect of 2009 admission arrangements and annually thereafter.

IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR 2008 ADMISSIONS

> There are some important steps we can take now affecting the 2008 admissions across the country.
>
> For any school that is imposing financial obligations on parents I want to be clear that this practice must stop immediately. Parents must not be required to pay any contribution to the school as a condition of admission whatever they may have agreed to do when making their application. Any school that has asked parents to make a financial contribution as a condition of admission must make clear to those parents now that such a payment is not mandatory.
>
> I also expect all local authorities immediately to ensure that the most vulnerable children, those in care or with statements of SEN are placed in the most appropriate school as required by law, whatever admissions criteria may have been used.

The evidence we have collected and are now verifying suggests that the large majority of schools are complying with the code this year. I want to ensure that every school complies with the code in 2009. The measures I have announced today will help ensure that every parent has a fair chance of getting their child a place at a school of their choice, and that no parent or child will be disadvantaged by unfair admission arrangements.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Playing Field Statistics

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): I have today deposited in the House Libraries a press release detailing the latest position in relation to school and community playing fields. The position remains a very positive one with 97 per cent. of concluded planning applications for 2005-06 representing a net benefit or no change to sporting provision. These figures confirm that the Government are meeting their commitment to protect playing fields. I also want to draw attention to a revision of one aspect of the data from previous years due to the discovery of a technical error which I set out in the press notice (also available online at: http://www.culture.gov.uk).

Government's policy is clear—no sports playing field needed by the community should be lost. And the figures collated by Sport England and released today show that our tough protections are working. They reveal that there were no complete losses of playing fields in 2005-06 without replacement provision or net benefit to sporting provision where Sport England have objected to a planning application and where planning permission has been granted against their advice.

The figures do not include information on new playing fields created outside of Sport England's statutory role, for example through new housing development in growth areas (which is often built on brownfield or previously arable land), but where we know from anecdotal evidence that there are positive gains.

DEFENCE

EU Defence Ministers Informal Meeting (Brdo)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I represented the UK at an informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers held on 21 and 22 February 2008 in Brdo, Slovenia. It provided an important opportunity for discussions on EU operations, capabilities and co-operation between the EU, NATO and the UN.

Ministers underlined their support to the upcoming ESDP mission to Kosovo, including the importance of the EU delivering results on the ground and liaising closely with NATO and the UN. Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), General Sir John McColl, briefed Ministers on Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina, noting that the security situation remained good and that there was continued progress in implementing the remaining military tasks under the Dayton agreement. The EU Force (EUFOR) Chad Operational Commander, Lt. General Pat Nash briefed Ministers on the security situation in Chad, noting that deployment of EUFOR had resumed following a temporary suspension due to rebel activity. Ministers discussed the continuing force generation for the mission and the need for the mission to remain impartial and co-operate closely with the UN.

Ministers also discussed the EU's military capabilities, including the use of EU Battlegroups and the need to tackle capability gaps, in particular helicopters. I emphasised that addressing capability shortfalls required political will and effective investment from nations, and that the European Defence Agency had a role to play if it worked effectively with NATO.

In the final session, Ministers discussed EU-NATO and EU-UN co-operation, with particular focus on the importance of effective co-operation in Afghanistan where EU Police Mission (EUPOL) personnel were being deployed alongside NATO forces in provincial reconstruction teams. I emphasised that it was imperative to ensure clear understandings between the EU and NATO where they were operating alongside each other in operational theatres like Afghanistan.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Local Authorities Fees and Charges 2008-09

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): Charges to cover the costs of local enforcing authorities in regulating processes which are subject to part I of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC)) were introduced in April 1991. Charges for installations which are subject to the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) and Local Authority- Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC)) were introduced in August 2000. LAPPC and LA-IPPC will transfer into the new Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) framework from 6 April 2008.

With the approval of the Treasury, and following consultation with local authority associations and industry, I have made revised schemes in respect of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act. The schemes specify the scale of fees and charges to take effect from 6 April 2008.

For LAPPC and LA-IPPC fees and charges for 2008-09 there will be an across the board increase of 3 per cent. Additionally there will be an increase of £190 in the application and the subsistence charges for vehicle refinishers; a one-off additional fee amounting to £55 for each risk assessed facility and £16 for each reduced fee activity to cover the transitional costs of transferring from PPC to the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR); an additional fee of £285 for permit applications for combined LAPPC and waste sites; and fees of £95, £143 and £190 to cover subsistence of low, medium and high risk facilities where, under EPR, LAPPC and waste installations form part of the same installation and are regulated by a local authority under a direction; an additional fee of £95 for each LA-IPPC and relevant LAPPC installation to cover local authorities' new reporting responsibilities under the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Regulations (E-PRTR); and a requirement for operators to reimburse any local authority costs incurred in advertising a permit application.

The basis of these increases is set out in the October 2007 consultation which is available on the DEFRA website at the following website address: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/localauth-plantfees08-09/index.htm

Some minor amendments to the schemes have also been made in the light of consultation with local authorities and industry. The schemes will be laid before Parliament today.

Foot and Mouth Disease 2007 (Review and Lessons Learned)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Prime Minister and I invited Dr. Iain Anderson to lead an independent review into the lessons learned from the response to the 2007 outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Dr. Anderson's report has been laid before Parliament today and I am very grateful to him for agreeing to undertake the review and for the comprehensive nature of his report. Dr. Anderson led the lessons learned inquiry into the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak and has brought his considerable knowledge and expertise to the examination of whether the lessons learned from 2001 were implemented, as well as to identifying what new lessons might be drawn from the handling of the 2007 outbreak.

The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) has now officially declared that the UK has regained freedom from FMD without vaccination following a three-month disease-free period. This is welcome news and is the result of the co-operation and partnership there has been between DEFRA, animal health, local authorities, all our delivery partners and the farming and food chain industries. But any FMD outbreak is devastating for those affected, and the 2001 crisis demonstrated this all too clearly. Even when confined to a small number of infected premises in a limited geographical area, as in 2007, the impact of an outbreak can be far-reaching on the livestock sector, the food chain and the wider community.

Dr. Anderson's review commends the Government's overall handling of the outbreak. He states that "many of the lessons identified in the 2002 report had been acted upon and performance, taken as a whole, was much improved". "In analysing how the 2007 outbreak was handled, with its innumerable, interwoven decisions and actions, we found much to applaud, along with some deficiencies. On balance, the positive easily outweighs the negative".

Many of Dr. Anderson's recommendations encourage us to build on the improvements that have already been made; for example in strengthening communications, assessing and managing risk and exercising and testing contingency plans. I agree that even when things have gone well, we can always do better in future.

As well as finding much progress compared to 2001, Dr. Anderson's review also points to things that did not go right and where further action is recommended.

In relation to Pirbright and IAH we have already taken action. The Government accepted all of the recommendations in Sir Bill Callaghan's independent review of the regulatory framework for the handling of animal pathogens published in December 2007, including that responsibility for the regulation of animal pathogens should transfer to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

DEFRA is working closely with the HSE and other Departments, to implement all three phases of the work recommended by Sir Bill Callaghan. The formal legal transfer of SAPO enforcement and inspection responsibilities is well under way and is nearing completion.

In addition, following the review of biosecurity at Pirbright conducted by Professor Brian Spratt in August 2007, BBSRC asked Sir John Beringer to undertake a review of the governance, funding and risk management of the Institute for Animal Health. Sir John is due to report to the BBSRC in April 2008.

We now know that when the decision was taken to lift restrictions on 8 September 2007 the FMD outbreak was not over. As Dr. Anderson's report states the decision was based on a risk assessment that took into account all available epidemiological and veterinary knowledge, and the requirements set down by the FMD directive had been met. The mandatory 30 days without any further outbreaks had occurred and based on previous experience, there was no reason to expect any further outbreaks of the disease. The decision was taken with the agreement and participation of the European Commission and other member states. I therefore believe that the decision taken at the time was appropriate in the light of what we then knew. We will however look carefully at how we communicate disease freedom, where there is always some degree of uncertainty, in future.

A further area of concern raised in Dr. Anderson's report was the performance of the information and data management systems that are needed during a disease outbreak. We have not made the progress we would have liked in this area despite considerable efforts. However as part of Animal Health's Business Reform Programme a new information and data management system is being implemented. This will deliver improvements between now and 2011.

Dr. Anderson acknowledges that Government do not act alone in a disease outbreak. The improvements made since 2001 reflect efforts in a wide range of organisations. I would, therefore, like to pay tribute to all of those organisations who gave their time and experience and were an integral part of the response to the disease. Farmers, as well as Government, are well placed to take effective action to prevent the spread of disease, and that is why we are continuing to work closely with the farming sector and others on responsibility and cost sharing. The aim is to ensure that both Government and others have contingency plans in place to deal with disease outbreaks.

Dr. Anderson makes a number of recommendations in his report and Government will consider them all carefully. In consultation with our partner delivery bodies and external stakeholders, we will decide what now needs to be done to make sure we are all as prepared as possible to prevent and control animal disease outbreaks in future. The Government will respond in full later this year.

I would like again to express my thanks to Dr. Anderson and his team for their time and effort in producing this report, and to all of those people who submitted evidence to the review.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/fmdreview.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Policing (UK Border)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The Government are committed to the swift establishment of a UK Border Agency (UKBA), which will bring together the work of the Border and Immigration Agency, UK Visas and parts of HM Revenue and Customs at the border. The new agency will work very closely with the police and other law enforcement agencies to improve border controls and security. We will shortly publish our detailed plans for the UKBA's first year of operation, but we are able today to announce key measures to ensure an immediate and seamless operation between the police and the new UKBA.

First, to strengthen effective police co-ordination at a strategic level I am announcing that Chief Constable Roger Baker of Essex police will join the UKBA board with immediate effect.

Secondly, to add to the 3,000 police permanently based at our borders 39 new specialists' posts at ports will be funded in 2008-09 to increase special branch coverage where it is most needed.

Thirdly, we will publish in April a new framework for inter-agency co-operation at the border. This can progress more quickly than further structural change either within the police service themselves or between the police and the UK Border Agency.

Fourthly, I can confirm that we will seek a new legislative basis and new powers for the UKBA as part of our immigration Bill in the autumn.

Fifthly, the Government will be discussing with police forces and authorities whether change is necessary in the current regime for special funding of special branch posts at ports and airports with a view to implementing a new regime from 2009-10. The Government are also considering how to implement the conclusions of the independent report into airport policing, with the aim of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the police, airport operators and other agencies to deliver a high level of security at UK airports and we will set out proposals on this later in the year.

Finally, in response to a recommendation in the Cabinet Office report "Security in a Global Hub—Establishing the UK's New Border Arrangements" published last November, the Home Office is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to consider how policing—which is currently delivered by the local force for each port and airport—may best be organised to deliver a fuller level of integration at the border, taking into consideration the drive for greater collaboration which is at the heart of the Government's programme for improving protective services. There are various models.

The Home Office will also be discussing with the Scottish devolved Administration and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland ways of strengthening working relationships between the Scottish police service and the new agency taking into account the devolved nature of policing in Scotland.

JUSTICE

Leeds Magistrates Court

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 29 November, *Official Report*, column WS172, I informed the House that I had formally commissioned Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Courts Administration (HMICA) to lead a thorough inspection and prepare a report to Ministers into the "resulting" and warrant processes at Leeds magistrates court.

I have today placed a copy of that report in the Libraries of both Houses and published it on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcements110308a.htm. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The concerns about Leeds magistrates court relate to two issues: recording the results of cases within the courts system and subsequently, in the case of recordable offences, updating the police national computer (PNC). "Resulting" is the term used for this within the courts system. The second related issue centres on a process used for withdrawing warrants issued by the court for the arrest of defendants who failed to appear in court, which were identified during investigations into court resulting in Leeds.

I accept all of the findings and recommendations of the inspectorates' report. The Government are already acting upon them.

As a result of these investigations disciplinary action has been initiated against members of staff at Leeds magistrates court who are implicated in these matters and in respect of those covered by a separate judicial report to the Lord Chief Justice.

At the time of these failings, these matters were the responsibility of West Yorkshire Magistrates' Courts' Committee (MCC). MCCs were independent local committees, formed almost entirely of magistrates, responsible for the "effective and efficient administration of their courts". The Government abolished MCCs in April 2005 through the implementation of the Courts Act 2003, following a review of the criminal courts in England and Wales by Sir Robin Auld.

Following the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) in 2005, anxieties expressed by West Yorkshire police led HMCS to uncover evidence of historic failings at Leeds magistrates court. I commissioned the inspectorates to undertake their investigations to ensure that all of the historic issues had been identified and that systems were in place to ensure that any mistakes of the past would not be repeated. HMCS has co-operated fully with the inspection and has assisted them in uncovering the full scale of the historic problems at Leeds.

The inspectorates' report paints a lamentable picture of the historic failure at Leeds magistrates court properly to record the results of court adjudication, dating back to 1980 with the vast majority occurring between 2001 and 2004.

These failures led to:

> A large number of adjudications not being recorded accurately at the time, or at all, meaning that the results for these cases may now have been lost:
>
> the creation and use of a disk to store cases with missing adjudications (following the introduction of a new computer system);
>
> the creation of artificial court registers on four occasions in 2002. This meant inputting in respect of large batches of cases as: "entered in error"—or "audit cleardown" as an "administrative solution to remove unresulted cases from the court computer system" (page 16 of the inspectorates' report);
>
> the manufacturing of fabricated court adjudications on at least one occasion in 2004 involving 12 defendants and 27 offences where legal advisers made up the results by "guessing the result of the case where the true court adjudication could not be traced" (page 17 of the inspectorates' report);
>
> A situation where a prolific offender could have been sentenced to imprisonment twice for the same offence. Investigations are continuing into whether this meant the offender served additional time in prison. If there has been an error the defendant will be informed.

The inspectorates conclude that there are now 2,206 defendants currently missing an adjudication, covering 3,260 offences of which 1,568 were recordable on the PNC. The report itself sets out the full number and nature of cases involved and describes a systematic covering up of errors.

Warrant withdrawals

A warrant is an order from a court for an individual to be arrested and brought back to the court, or to be bailed to attend a future court hearing. The warrant system is fundamental to the effective operation of the Criminal Justice System. In any court area a large number of warrants are issued. Some of these will be quite properly withdrawn (for example, where the defendant gives himself up voluntarily, is imprisoned by another court, has died, or the warrant has proved impossible to execute over a considerable period).

The inspectorates also confirm considerable irregularities in the process for the withdrawal of warrants. This process had been agreed in a protocol between Leeds magistrates court, the West Yorkshire police and West Yorkshire CPS and was implemented between 2003-04 (see appendix 12). This was uncovered by HMCS in November 2007. Under this protocol, where there were no objections, warrants were to be withdrawn in bulk with no evidence that each case was given proper consideration by the court. This reduced the judicial warrant withdrawal process into an administrative act. This was intended to:

> "get rid of the significant number of outstanding warrants" (see appendix 12).

This led to warrants being withdrawn in relation to 555 defendants representing 1709 offences. Many of these offences were for low level matters (for example, minor driving offences). However 67 defendants also had the record of their convictions withdrawn in relation to a total of 115 recordable offences (offences that need to be recorded on the PNC).

The inspectors have confirmed that HMCS at Leeds has now improved the controls in place to manage the number of unresulted court adjudications and all court adjudications are now included in the court register.

The inspectorates have also confirmed that there is no evidence of inappropriate warrant withdrawal or failures in the resulting process at Leeds since 2004. However they have identified weaknesses in the underlying processes at Leeds (in relation to the quality and assurance of in court record). HMCS has already begun to implement these improvements. The inspectorates commend:

> "the willingness of EM Courts Service to accept responsibility for the failings at Leeds magistrates court even though they happened before the creation of HMCS in 2005" and the commitment to: "fully identify and rectify all of the failures learning lessons as appropriate and engaging openly with the process".

Work will continue to identify results for the outstanding cases and progress has already been made to resolve and result the most serious offences. The results of 62 of the most serious offences have already been found and verified (and I can confirm the outcome of cases were appropriately resulted in the Crown Court).

The criminal justice agencies in West Yorkshire are establishing processes to review all of the warrants and proceedings withdrawn, and where appropriate, bring them before a formally-constituted court. In line with the recommendations of the inspectorates a new inter-agency warrant withdrawal protocol is now in place in West Yorkshire. In addition we will revise the national guidance on warrant withdrawal, issued in 2006, to reinforce the key lessons learned from the report.

HMCS continues to work with the other agencies to seek the missing adjudications and resolve what should happen in relation to the withdrawn warrants.

Investing in Alternatives to Custody

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The Government have always been clear that prison is and will remain the place for violent and dangerous offenders, while there are many less serious offenders for whom community punishments can be more effective penalties than short prison sentences. Such offenders can be required to do unpaid work of real benefit, and provide some payback to the communities they have wronged. They can be subject to tagging, curfews and intensive supervision where appropriate; and receive targeted interventions to tackle any drug, alcohol, mental health and offending behaviour requirements. Reoffending rates for offenders subject to community punishments are lower than those for short-sentenced prisoners. Community punishments can be more cost-effective and can offer more opportunities for rehabilitation than short-term sentences, dealing with the offence and the causes of offending behaviour. We have therefore made very significant investment in probation—a 67 per cent. real terms increase since 1997, and well over 6 million of hours of unpaid community payback done by offenders in 2006.

Recently, however there has been an increase in numbers of offenders sentenced to short periods of custody, something which inevitably created pressure on the prison service. I can therefore today announce that the Government are allocating further funds, including £40 million to probation in 2008-09, so that sentencers can be confident that the resources are in place to deliver effective community punishments.

The funds will be allocated in support of a specific delivery plan by probation areas. We will monitor the impact of these resources closely to ensure that they are spent in support of those sentenced to community orders rather than short prison sentences.

Drugs (Prisons)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am announcing today that David Blakey CBE QPM, formerly Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, has been appointed to lead a review of the Prison Service's measures to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into prisons.

It is of significant concern that on average 55 per cent. of people entering prison have a serious drug misuse problem, with this figure rising to 80 per cent. in some instances. Many have offended to fund their need for drugs. Inevitably, their desire for illicit drugs does not simply disappear when they enter prison. As a result, the Prison Service faces major challenges in trying to respond to prisoners' attempts to secure access to illicit drugs. The Prison Service has a range of measures in place to tackle this issue—ranging from the searching of visitors, to working with the police to identify criminal networks intent on supplying drugs to particular prisons.

The level of drug positives detected by the random mandatory drug testing programme in prisons has fallen by nearly two thirds since its introduction in 1996-97 from 24.4 per cent. to 8.8 per cent. in 2006-07. This is thanks to a number of initiatives including the introduction of mandatory drug testing, better detox, better treatment, CCTV surveillance of visits, increased used of closed visits, more drug dogs and improved security performance on searching and intelligence.

My right hon. Friend, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice announced on 31 January 2008 (Official Report, 37WS) that further measures will now be considered to further develop this work. This will include reviewing the criteria for open/closed visits across the prison estate, with a particular focus on local prisons.

The review will look at introducing more rigorous searches, including the provision of more sniffer/search dogs. Mr Blakey has been asked by the Director General of the Prison Service to conduct a review of the measures in place to tackle the supply of illicit drugs into prisons. The terms of reference are:

> To review the effectiveness of HM Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of illicit drugs in prisons.
>
> To make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of HM Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of illicit drugs in prisons. Recommendations should take account of the legal, financial and practical limitations appertaining to HM Prison Service's operating environment.
>
> To make recommendations regarding what additional measures might be possible, and at what cost, if resources were available for additional investment.

The review report will be submitted to the Director General by 31 May.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 12 March 2008

TREASURY

Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008-09

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The "Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008-09" is being published today. Copies have been deposited in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Contingencies Fund

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The armed forces pension scheme, administered by MOD, is responsible for payments of pensions to former members of the armed forces. The scheme is funded partly by the MOD, and partly by a separate MOD vote. The 2007-08 main estimate net cash requirement for the pension scheme totalled £1,689,057,000. Due to unforeseen pension pressures in the 2007-08 year, a cash shortfall of £150,000,000 was identified within the overall pension scheme.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £150,000,000 has been sought in the 2007-08 spring supplementary estimate for the armed forces pension scheme. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at up to £85,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 13 March 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Lamb Inquiry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): In October 2007 the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee published "Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Funding". The report identified parental confidence in the special educational needs (SEN) assessment system as a key issue in making provision for children with SEN. We share the Committee's desire to improve parental confidence and in the children's plan we set out an ambitions package of measures supported by £18 million of additional investment over 2008-11. This package will improve the skills of the workforce in meeting children's special educational needs and focus on the outcomes being achieved.

This year we will roll out new, specially developed SEN and disability units for primary undergraduate teacher training courses to be followed by units for secondary and PGCE courses next year. We are developing the skills of the early years and schools work force through the inclusion development programme and promoting specialist training through the work of the three trusts we have supported in communication, autism and dyslexia. In addition we are learning about the progress of children with SEN through the Making Good Progress pilots and will be improving data to support progression.

Building on this, in our response to the Committee's report (HC 298, published 4 February 2008) we committed to setting up a group of expert advisers, under the chairmanship of Brian Lamb, the chair of the Special Educational Consortium, to advise on the most effective ways of increasing parental confidence in the SEN assessment process. In formulating their advice, we have asked the inquiry to:

- consider whether increasing parental confidence could be best achieved by:
    - making the provision of educational psychology advice "arm's length" from local authorities;
    - sharing best practice in developing good relationships between the authority and parents, through effective parent partnership services and other local mechanisms;
    - effective practice by schools and local authorities in meeting the needs of children at school action plus;
    - other innovative proposals;
- commission and evaluate innovative projects, in the areas identified, that can demonstrate the impact on parental confidence of a particular approach;
- draw on the evidence of other work currently commissioned by the Department; and
- take into account the evidence of the submissions to the two Select Committee reports, in 2006 and 2007.

To advise him, Brian Lamb has brought together a group of expert advisers who reflect a range of interests and opinions. The group consists of:

Nick Armstrong of Matrix Chambers
Virginia Bovell, parent and Associate Director of TreeHouse
Colin Diamond, Director of Children's Services for North Somerset
Dr. Fiona Hammans, headteacher of Banbury School, Oxfordshire
Professor Ann Lewis of Birmingham University
Jane McConnell of the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA)

A broader reference group of professionals and parents will also inform the inquiry. This group will bring a wide range of evidence and extensive networks to the process of evidence gathering.

I have asked the inquiry to start its work immediately and have asked for a report in June 2008 on the commissioning of the innovative projects and initial areas of focus for the inquiry. The projects will run for the school year September 2008—July 2009 and an evaluation will run concurrently.

I have asked Brian Lamb and his advisers to report in September 2009. The findings of the inquiry will be available to the Ofsted SEN survey of 2009-10 and will help to inform the development of the next stage of our thinking in this area.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 1995

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today laid before the House an amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 1995 (the GPDO) which will apply from 6 April 2008. The amendment provides permitted development rights for the installation of specified types of microgeneration equipment on or within the curtilage of dwellinghouses. The equipment includes solar photovoltaics (PV), solar thermal, ground and water source heat pumps, biomass heating and combined heat and power systems. Where permitted development rights are granted, no application for planning permission is needed.

The Government consulted in April 2007 on the proposed extension of householder permitted development rights for microgeneration. There were two main policy objectives; first to provide extra freedom for permitted development so long as it had little or no impact beyond the host property. Secondly, the Government wanted to make it easier for householders to combat climate change by producing their own energy from renewable sources.

In November 2007 the Government issued their response to the consultation. The Government announced that they intended to provide permitted development for the following types of microgeneration: solar panels, wind turbines, heat pumps, biomass and combined heat and power, subject to specific limits and conditions that would ensure that any adverse impact on others was not significant. The response said that standards would need to be set on noise and vibration for wind turbines and air source heat pumps to ensure that neighbours were not disturbed by the development. For that reason, permitted development rights for wind turbines and air source heat pumps would be implemented as soon as these standards and safeguards had been drawn up and put in place. These would be dealt with principally through further work being led by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform working with key stakeholders, including industry, to develop a certification scheme for microgeneration that covers both standards for products and their installation.

The amendment to the GPDO allows for the installation of solar PV or solar thermal equipment on the wall or roof of a dwellinghouse or a building within its curtilage so long as the equipment does not protrude more than 200 millimetres. Stand alone solar PV or solar thermal will be permitted if its height does not exceed four metres above ground level and it is more than five metres from the boundary. There are restrictions that apply to solar in conservation areas, in world heritage sites and to listed buildings.

Good progress has been made on the associated test standards that will apply to wind turbines and air source heat pumps, as part of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. The scheme and standards have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and industry. In due course, the GPDO will incorporate standards to ensure that habitable rooms of any neighbouring residential property are not exposed to an outside noise level exceeding 45 decibels. The noise limit will apply to free-standing wind turbines and those mounted on detached dwellings. Similar provisions will apply to air source heat pumps. The decibel level will be reviewed after two years in the light of conditions prevailing at the time.

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme has been notified to the European Commission and cleared. However, reference within the GPDO has to be notified to the Commission under the EC Technical Standards Directive 98/34/EC as a new regulation. This process is likely to be concluded within a few months. The Government will amend the GPDO to grant permitted development rights for wind turbines and air source heat pumps that comply with the certification scheme and standards upon satisfactory completion of this legal process. This amendment will apply to free standing wind turbines, those mounted on detached dwellings, and to air source heat pumps. These rights will not extend to wind turbines on attached dwellings such as semi-detached and terraced houses until further work has been carried out by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and industry on potential nuisance to neighbours from structure-borne noise and vibration.

I wish to make it clear to the House that it is only the need to provide a satisfactory standard that addresses noise and vibration issues, which then has to go through the legal process mentioned above that prevents the inclusion of wind turbines and air source heat pumps in the Statutory Instrument laid before Parliament today.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 3 March 2008.

At this Council, member states set out their positions on the 2020 climate and energy package. The UK intervened to welcome the ambition of the proposals in meeting the EU's targets for a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as part of an international climate agreement, or a unilateral 20 per cent. reduction. The UK highlighted the need for aggregate member state whole economy figures to be presented as a clear signal to those international negotiations of the effort required by each member state. The EU should continue to play a leading role in combating climate change.

The UK signalled that we will do our fair share of the emission reductions under the greenhouse gas effort sharing proposal, but these targets should be met cost-effectively. The UK also welcomed the Commission's proposal for the level of a central EU ETS cap with a clear downwards emissions reduction trajectory and the Commission's proposals on carbon capture and storage (CCS), including the demonstration projects. The UK did however state our opposition to hypothecation of auctioning revenues and the reallocation of auctioning rights. Finally, the UK and many others emphasised the importance of coherent sustainability criteria for biofuels. Member states also set out their positions on the Commission's proposal for a regulation to reduce CO_2 emissions from new cars. The UK welcomed the proposal, called for the addition of challenging long-term targets and stressed the need for provisions to protect independent niche and small-volume manufacturers.

Ministers adopted Council conclusions as input to the spring European Council on 13 to 14 March. The conclusions form the basis of EU leaders' response to legislative proposals to achieve Europe's climate and energy objectives for 2020. It also covers issues including halting biodiversity loss, environmental technologies, sustainable consumption and production, and better regulation. The Council also adopted Council conclusions establishing the EU priorities and negotiating position ahead of the fourth COP serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena protocol on biosafety and the ninth conference of parties to the convention of biological diversity both to be held in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany.

Under "Any Other Business", the presidency provided information on emissions from heavy duty vehicles (Euro VI). At the request of delegations, additional AOB items include noise from military aircraft, shipping emissions (on which the UK intervened), management of GMOs and Ukraine's final decision regarding the Danube-Black sea deep navigational canal.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FCO Scholarships and Fellowships

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In parallel with the work on the new Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) strategic framework, that I announced to the House on 23 January, I should like to inform the House of our plans for the future of scholarships and fellowships funding.

We have found a transformed situation in higher education, and an FCO scholarship programme that has not always been well aligned to foreign policy goals. So we propose a smaller, better organised programme, focused on the leaders of tomorrow, from a wide range of backgrounds. The savings we make from this reform will support new priority programmes, principally on climate change.

Twelve years ago 30,000 post-graduate students came to the UK from outside the EU. Since then that number has gone up by 160 per cent. British universities actively market themselves, and many offer their own scholarships. So we need to focus on the value-added from the FCO's scholarship schemes. This value-added is the creation of relationships between the United Kingdom and the international leaders of the future.

We currently support three scholarship schemes (Chevening, Marshall and Commonwealth) in addition to our Chevening fellowship programme. Our scholarship schemes bring young post-graduates to the UK, normally for master degree courses. Our fellowship scheme brings mid-career professionals for 12-week custom designed specialist courses.

As we reviewed our schemes we found a number of weaknesses. The purpose of the scholarship schemes has not always been clear. We have not always sought out students we thought could become international leaders. We have pursued high numbers of scholars, which has sometimes reduced focus on quality. We have not consistently done enough to build the personal relationships with the scholars that we need to get the most out of the schemes, including during selection, which we have sometimes left to others, during their time in the UK and after they have finished their studies. We have not always worked closely enough with our partner Government Departments with an international focus or with British business to ensure the scholarship schemes work for them. And the Chevening scholarship brand has been stronger in some countries than in others.

The schemes have had real strengths. But we need to refocus them to ensure that these strengths are consistent. We will maintain a global scheme, but we will focus scholarships particularly on those countries such as China and India which are going to be most important to our foreign policy success over coming years. We will select more carefully to ensure our scholars really are potential future leaders, with our heads of mission having personal responsibility for ensuring their posts are getting this right. We will work to ensure we are drawing from the widest possible pool of potential scholars.

We will maintain a much closer relationship with those scholars who do come, making sure that right from the start of the selection process we begin to build links with them, increasing our contact with them while they are here, and staying in closer touch with them after they leave, including through the introduction of a new web-based alumni networking system.

We want to increase the engagement British business and Government Departments with an international focus have with the scholars, and we are starting a consultation process to ensure this happens. We will work in the future through two scholarship schemes only, the Marshall scheme in the USA and the Chevening scheme in the rest of the world, and will develop the strength of these brands. This means an end to the FCO contribution to the Commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan. We will maintain the highly successful Chevening fellowship scheme at its current level.

These changes will free up some £10 million a year for new activity on our new policy goals. The majority of this will be spent on programmes to support the development and implementation of a low-carbon, high-growth economy, in particular:

with other UK Government Departments, developing sound scientific and economic evidence in key countries which demonstrates the benefits of taking strong, early action on climate change;

mobilising support for such action through engagement with key decision-makers, including political, business and civil society leaders in key countries such as the US, China and India; and

with other UK Government Departments, developing and helping to implement regulation in key countries which facilitates investments in low carbon technologies and energy efficiency.

Under the new strategic framework we are also increasing our resources for staff working on these issues in London and overseas.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers (December 2007 - March 2008)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") requires the Home Secretary to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, three CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period from 11 December 2007 to 10 March 2008, two non-derogating control orders were made. One of these was quashed following a review hearing. Three control orders were renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. One was subsequently revoked after the subject received a prison sentence for criminal offences unrelated to his control order. Three control orders against individuals who had absconded have expired.

In total, 11 control orders are currently in force, four of which are in respect of British citizens. Three of the individuals live in the Metropolitan police service area, the rest live within other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating.

During this reporting period, 35 modifications of control order obligations were made. 12 requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in sections 10(1) and 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order, without consent, and to refuse a request by a controlled person to modify any such obligation. Three such appeals have been lodged in this reporting period. Two modification appeals have been heard and judgment has been given in one of these cases (the judge did not find it necessary to give an explicit ruling on the other appeal). A further modification appeal lodged in the previous reporting period was part heard during this reporting period. Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act also contains a provision to appeal against the renewal of a non-derogating control order. One appeal has been lodged against the renewal of an order in this reporting period and one such appeal has been heard with judgment reserved.

During this reporting period, six judgments relating to control orders were handed down by the High Court and one was handed down by the Court of Appeal. Two of these related to the case of Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* Cerie Bullivant, which was heard during this reporting period. The first set out the approach that the court would take to Article 6 in the case. The second judgment related to the substantive review of Cerie Bullivant's first and second control orders. The second control order was quashed on the basis that at the time of the review hearing grounds for reasonable suspicion of Cerie Bullivant's involvement in terrorism-related activity did not exist. No final judgment was necessary on the first order as it had already expired prior to the hearing.

In the case of Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* AE a judgment was handed down which found that, at that stage in the proceedings, Article 6 had been complied with. In the case of the Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* AN, the High Court held that the Secretary of State would have to disclose further material to AN or withdraw reliance upon it in order to ensure that the hearing would be compatible with Article 6. In the case of Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* AF the High Court ruled that without further disclosure to AF Article 6 has not been complied with, unless AF could have no conceivable answer to the case against him even if further disclosure was made.

The Court of Appeal handed down a judgment in the case of Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* AF on procedural matters and a High Court judgment was handed down in the case of Secretary of State for the Home Department *v.* AM in closed only.

One substantive control order review was completed in the High Court having previously been adjourned—judgment is awaited in this case. Two substantive reviews were adjourned part heard and another was adjourned.

An individual was found not guilty on a number of charges of breaching control order obligations on 13 December 2007 by a jury at the Old Bailey.

A further individual has been charged for a number of breaches relating to his control order. He is currently on remand in prison.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

"Innovation Nation" White Paper and "The Race to the Top"

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Today I am publishing two documents: "Innovation Nation", a White Paper on Science and Innovation, and one on implementing "'The Race to the Top': Lord Sainsbury's review of Government's Science and Innovation Policies". Copies will be made available in the Vote office and Printed Paper office.

The White Paper sets out what Government will do to ensure innovation can flourish across every area of our economy—in business, the third sector, and in the public sector.

We want to make Britain the best country in the world in which to run an innovative business or public service. We can do this by investing in people and knowledge, unlocking talent at all levels, by investing in research and in the exploitation of knowledge and by using regulation, public procurement and public services to shape the market for innovative solutions.

This White Paper marks a step change in the way we describe, understand and develop the Government's role in creating the best conditions for innovation. We need to ensure that Britain contributes to the innovative solutions that will be needed if we are to tackle the big challenges of the 21st century, like global warming and sustainable development, and that British business and the British people benefit from the new opportunities and prosperity they create.

In our response to "'The Race to the Top': Lord Sainsbury's review of Government's Science and Innovation Policies", which was published in October 2007, we outline the Government's progress in implementing the recommendations set out in Lord Sainsbury's review.

The Government have made good progress at implementing the recommendations. All recommendations have either been implemented or are in the process of implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Sainsbury for his work on the review, which has been a catalyst for our further work on science and innovation.

JUSTICE

Drug Testing in Prisons (Buprenorphine)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) takes the misuse of drugs in prisons very seriously. Since 1996-97, the overall random MDT positive rate has decreased from 24.4 per cent. to

8.8 per cent. in 2006-07. This represents a decrease of 64 per cent. for that period. Ministers are now urgently considering what further measures we need to take over controlling the supply of drugs into prisons. NOMS has been proactive in monitoring changing patterns of misuse and in ensuring that the best available supply reduction measures are in place. By this statement I am announcing that mandatory drug testing (MDT) for buprenorphine will be introduced in all prisons from 1 April.

Buprenorphine (Subutex) is being prescribed increasingly in the community in the treatment of opioid dependence and is gaining equal clinical status to methadone in some areas. This has been accompanied by increased illegal use. Buprenorphine testing has been in place since 1999, restricted to those prisons with an identified problem. Growing operational concern at the potential for wider buprenorphine misuse in prisons led NOMS to commission a survey in 2007 to assess the scale of the problem. The results show that misuse of this drug has grown to be a significant problem and that its use is now more widespread geographically.

Buprenorphine misuse presents a new challenge for prisons. In response, testing will now be introduced in all prisons to act as a deterrent. Prisoners will also be warned of the dangers involved in misusing this drug and reminded of the drug treatment options available in prisons.

The increased misuse of buprenorphine does not detract from the considerable achievement of prisons over the last 10 years in reducing the supply of drugs.

The introduction of buprenorphine testing in all prisons will however, inevitably lead to an increase in reported levels of drug misuse. Key performance targets have already been set for 2008-09, but these do not take into account the impact of buprenorphine. Therefore, this year two sets of performance data will be recorded: the headline measure excluding buprenorphine, and a separate measure including buprenorphine. This will demonstrate clearly the impact of buprenorphine testing and enable the comparison of prison performance to continue on a consistent basis. New targets that take into account buprenorphine misuse will then be set for 2009-10, although we may continue to run two data sets in parallel to provide longer-term comparisons of trends.

Copies of the report "A Survey of Buprenorphine Misuse in Prisons: July 2007" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease130308a.htm

TRANSPORT

Local Bus Service Support

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am today publishing a consultation document on proposals to reform local bus subsidies. The proposals particularly focus on changes to my Department's bus service operators grant to link it more effectively with our objectives on the environment, accessibility and congestion. They involve changes to help tackle the contribution of buses to climate change and to encourage technological modernisation, such as smartcard infrastructure and use of GPS data, which will help deliver better services for passengers.

Copies of the document and associated impact assessment are being placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 14 March 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

NATO Foreign Ministers

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Stewart Eldon, UK permanent representative to NATO, represented the UK at the informal meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Brussels on 6 March 2008.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Afghanistan

Allies decided that a public statement that clearly defines NATO's achievements and objectives in Afghanistan would be needed at the Bucharest summit on 2 and 4 April. Ministers agreed that this should include input from troop contributing nations (that is, including partners such as Australia and Sweden) and other international organisations involved in Afghanistan.

NATO Enlargement

Ministers discussed the membership aspirations of Croatia, Albania and Macedonia. Decisions on each country's respective applications would be made at Bucharest, based on their progress towards meeting accepted standards. NATO's relationships with Ukraine, Georgia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Serbia were also raised and discussion will continue at the Bucharest summit.

Kosovo

Ministers discussed the role of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) following Kosovo's declaration of independence and the evolving relationship between KFOR, the UN's mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the EU's rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX).

NATO-EU Relations

Ministers acknowledged the need to strengthen and deepen NATO-EU co-operation. This would be an important factor in the success of KFOR's mission.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Income-contingent Student Loans

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): The Sale of Student Loans Bill is currently before Parliament. It creates the legislative framework for the programme of sale of income-contingent student loans announced at Budget 2007. The Bill has completed its passage through the House of Commons and had its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 19 February 2008. The Government's intention, as announced at Budget 2007, is for the sales programme to commence in 2008-09. The Government want the flexibility to make sales at times that offer the best value for money, including the period immediately after Royal Assent to the Sale of Student Loans Bill.

To that end, the Government seek to incur expenditure on external expert services on work that comprises the preparatory phase of implementation, in advance of an initial transaction. Whereas the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has already incurred preliminary expenditure on legal and financial expertise to refine the policy intention to conduct a sale programme, from existing funds, it seeks advances from the Contingencies Fund to be able to incur expenditure on preparatory implementation work.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for 2008-09 for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £5 million will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Flexible New Deal

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am pleased to announce today my plans for implementing the flexible New Deal. The new employment programme will build on the success of the various existing New Deals for jobseekers it replaces, helping to underpin our objectives for full employment and eradicating child poverty.

I want to make these opportunities available to jobseekers everywhere as soon as possible. Based on our previous experience in successfully implementing Pathways to Work in just two phases, we will adopt a similar approach for the flexible New Deal, with phase 1 being delivered from October 2009 and phase 2 from October 2010.

The flexible New Deal is a key part of implementing the vision set out in David Freud's report, "Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity" published last year. It will be the first programme commissioned under the new DWP Commissioning Strategy that I announced on 28 February, and through which we will engage specialist back to work providers in the public, private and third sectors to offer more creative and innovative ways of helping jobseekers to overcome their specific problems with the clear aim of getting into sustainable employment.

Providers will be paid by results, focused on helping long-term unemployed people into jobs that last, and focusing on every individual and not just the well motivated.

Providers will match the type and length of activity to each participant's needs resulting in an individually tailored support package. Our vision is that everyone who can work should do so. I have made it clear that all jobseekers joining this programme will be required to do at least four weeks of work or work-related activity if they fail to find work within 12 months of support from their provider, and we will be looking for bidders who can offer even more for those who will benefit.

Advertisements for organisations interested in bidding for phase 1 contracts will be published in the press from next week.

The Jobcentre Plus districts to be included in each phase are:

Phase 1	*Phase 2*
Birmingham and Solihull	Merseyside
North and East Yorkshire and Humber	Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside
Tees Valley	Glasgow
South Yorkshire	West London
Derbyshire	City and East London
Surrey and Sussex	North and North East London
Kent	Essex
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Nottinghamshire	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Central London	Cumbria and Lancashire
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	South London
Devon and Cornwall	Dorset and Somerset
South Wales Valleys	West of England
South East Wales	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon
South West Wales	Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
North and Mid Wales	Highland, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington	West Yorkshire
Black Country	Northumbria
Greater Manchester Central	South Tyne and Wear Valley
Greater Manchester East and West	
Coventry and Warwickshire	
The Marches	
Staffordshire	
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	
Norfolk	
Lincolnshire and Rutland	

Transforming Britain's labour market: "Ten Years of the New Deal" is available at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/docs/PMNewDeal2-01-08.pdf.

DWP "Commissioning Strategy" is available at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/com-strategy/cs-rep-08.pdf.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 17 March 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today publishing a joint consultation document with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills that proposes to put local authorities in the lead in delivering our drive to raise the participation age and sets out plans to reform the skills landscape.

We want every 16 and 17-year-old to participate in education and training. And we want every adult to have the chance to improve their skills to get a job, a better job, or have a more successful economic life. In this document we set out our proposals for moving £7 billion of funding for education and training of 16 to 18-year-olds to local authorities while establishing a new Skills Funding Agency to fund skills development for adults. We have been working closely with our colleagues in the Learning and Skills Council, with the Local Government Association and with the Association of Directors of Children's Services. These proposals set out our recommended models for consultation ahead of legislative proposals.

The key proposals in the document will help to deliver our ambition to raise the participation age and transform attainment by age 19 and underpin our aim of a demand-led system and the integration of employment and skills.

Local authorities are in the best place to lead the implementation of the new participation age locally. They are already responsible for schools and are taking responsibility for advising young people. We are now giving them new duties to ensure that the right range of provision is in place for young people to continue in education or training until age 19 and for funding it. In doing so, we are making sure that they have the ability to deliver in full the new curriculum and qualifications entitlement for young people, and to raise standards.

The consultation document sets out how, for young people, we aim to place leadership of the system, accountability for outcomes, duties and the funding to deliver, at a local level—local authorities will have the responsibility and duties to deliver for everyone from birth to 19. Our proposals include:

> Giving local authorities the responsibility for ensuring clear local leadership to ensure that every young person is pursuing a programme which engages them and prepares them for life, including young people to the age of 25 with learning difficulties and or disabilities. This includes responsibility for delivering the full entitlement to a choice from the 17 new diplomas, an apprenticeship place and the foundation learning tier, for learners working below level 2.
>
> Giving local authorities responsibility for commissioning the £7 billion annually spent on education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds.
>
> More local accountability for local authorities to take an even more integrated approach to delivery of all children's services from ages 0-19, helping to deliver the children's plan.
>
> Funding schools and colleges in comparable ways through retaining the national funding formula.
>
> Giving local authorities the powers to commission more places in schools and colleges, and contract with new providers in order to respond to the needs and demands of young people.
>
> Requiring local authorities to work with each other to commission provision across coherent "travel to learn" areas.
>
> Creating a common performance management framework for schools and colleges so that young people, their parents and carers can make informed decisions about learning opportunities and provide a robust framework for local authorities to carry out their duties in relation to school sixth-form and sixth-form college performance and for the DIUS Skills Funding Agency to carry out its duties in relation to FE colleges and providers' performance.
>
> Bringing local authorities together regionally, so that with the regional development agency who will co-chair the regional tier, they can ensure that they cater for the future economic and skills needs of each region.
>
> Creating a Young People's Learning Agency to carry out a small number of national-level functions such as developing a national funding formula and helping to ensure that regional proposals are affordable and deliver universally high-quality provision regardless of where a young person lives.
>
> Enabling local authorities to work closely with the Young People's Learning Agency and the DIUS Skills Funding Agency, to make sure that capital funding through local authorities joins up with funding through the FE modernisation fund, to create a coherent capital programme for both adult and young people's facilities in FE.
>
> Ensuring that all providers will have a single commissioner for all 16-19 provision who will act on behalf of all the local authorities from which the colleges draws its students.

For adults, we have the opportunity to enable more effective delivery to the benefit of employers and people. The advent of skills accounts and growth of "Train to Gain" mark a radically different model of organising the skills system, where the role of government is to make sure customers are well-informed and well-supported so that their demand for learning leads supply. We will create a dedicated, streamlined agency at the core of our reforms. Our proposals include:

> The creation of a new dedicated Skills Funding Agency which builds on the success of the Learning and Skills Council and capable of responding quickly and flexibly to national, regional and local skills needs;
>
> The Skills Funding Agency will route funding swiftly, efficiently and securely to FE colleges and other providers following the purchasing decisions of adults and employers. It will make sure public funds complement the large private investment which is made in adult skills and training;
>
> The Skills Funding Agency will maintain oversight of the coherence and performance of the whole FE service and especially its responsiveness to the strategic skills needs of employers and learners;
>
> The agency will be responsible for the performance management of further education colleges and other providers. It will be the single point of intervention where either pre or post-19 performance does not meet nationally agreed acceptable standards;

> As announced in "World-Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All", the Government are creating a new national apprenticeships service (NAS) to take end-to-end responsibility for the apprenticeships programme, including ultimate accountability for national delivery of targets. The NAS will be a discrete, coherent service, led by a director reporting to the Secretaries of State of DCSF and DIUS, and managed at first within the Learning and Skills Council and then the Skills Funding Agency;
>
> The Skills Funding Agency will manage the National Employer Service, the single service for employers with 5,000-plus employees. The relationship between NAS and the NES will be close, so that employers experience a "no wrong door" service;
>
> The Skills Funding Agency will manage the creation and management of the new England-wide adult advancement and careers service, which will play a key role, with Jobcentre Plus, in boosting individual demand for skills and guiding people to the right training to meet their needs and help change their lives;
>
> The new agency will have an operational remit, established as a "next steps" agency;
>
> Our Departments remain committed to college autonomy and deregulating the operating environments. The new further education improvement body and the FE sector's own proposals for self-regulation will be working together to raise the performance of the FE service for young people and adults.

The skills landscape has grown and reshaped itself over the years. Whilst the current landscape has worked well, with the LSC playing a particularly critical role supporting the achievements of young people and adults since 2001, the ever-increasing pace of change means that the skills landscape must change if we are to achieve the skills challenges. With almost three quarters of the workforce of 2020 already out of compulsory education, we need to make sure the skills landscape can respond to the demands of adults and employers.

Likewise, the Government believe that this system of local leadership for education and training for all young people will contribute to a radical transformation in the life chances of young people. This new system will support reform of the curriculum and qualifications and the reform of wider services for young people, to facilitate the raising of the participation age, to the benefit of young people, the economy and society.

The two complementary systems set out in our proposals reflect the different needs of the young people and adult sectors. They allow the two national bodies to work closely together and co-ordinate their activity so that schools, colleges and other providers are in turn able to deliver excellent learning opportunities to all.

As we make the changes, we are committed to minimising unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, and making sure schools, colleges and providers are able to focus on effective education and training. We will continue to involve those that will be affected by the changes as we implement them.

We are confident these plans will provide for new and innovative ways of tackling education and skills challenges and strengthen support for young people and adults. It is absolutely essential that as we prepare for change we continue to challenge schools, colleges and all providers to deliver the best possible outcomes for young people and adults already in education and training. We have just seen the highest rise in numbers of young people achieving at level 2 and level 3 by the age of 19, and the numbers of adults achieving basic skills and level 2 qualifications reaching record levels: the Government are determined these achievements are bettered. We will continue to be ambitious for the next cohort of young people and adults and will make the changes proposed in this document with a view to strengthening further the experience of these young people and adults in learning.

I am placing in the Library copies of the consultation document "Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver". The consultation period runs from 17 March to 9 June.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I would like to update the House on progress on steps which have been taken to strengthen the vetting and barring system, and on commitments made in respect of List 99 by my predecessors, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) on 19 January 2006, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) on 28 February 2007.

The safety of children and young people is our top priority. We are committed to ensuring we have the toughest ever vetting and barring system for all those working with, or seeking to work with, children and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, which received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006, introduces further fundamental strengthening of the arrangements for the vetting and barring of individuals employed with children and vulnerable adults. This will incorporate a robust, independent and expert barring process and will provide a modern and improved vetting service for employers, including parents.

Pending the implementation of this new vetting and barring service, we have continued to strengthen existing arrangements in a number of ways.

Revised List 99 Regulations

My predecessor announced the introduction of regulations concerning the placing of individuals on List 99 by including on the list automatically anyone with a sexual offence against a child. These regulations, which amended the Education (Prohibition from Teaching or Working with Children) Regulations 2003, extended the range of offences which will result in automatic inclusion on List 99 to include cautions as well as convictions for sexual offences against children. These changes have ensured that anyone aged 18 or over who is convicted of, or cautioned for, a relevant offence from 28 February 2007 will be automatically included on the list regardless of whether there is evidence that they have been in previous employment in the education and children's workforce. For the most serious offences individuals are barred without the right to make representations. In other cases individuals are able to make representations, but continue to be barred from employment as teachers or school workers while these are considered.

These regulations have been implemented vigorously and effectively since they came into force on 28 February 2007.

I am particularly grateful for the assistance of the police in providing information on individuals who have committed relevant offences to my officials in order that barring can be undertaken.

Consolidated Safer Recruitment Guidance and Follow-up to the Ofsted Survey of Vetting Practice in Schools

Following the Ofsted survey of vetting practice in schools, the Department introduced new requirements for every school and college to have a single central record of checks. Full, single central records for all staff were required to be in place from 1 April 2007. The existence of an up-to-date record in every school, available for inspection by Ofsted, will help to ensure that schools have carried out and recorded all the checks, including List 99 and CRB checks, on staff properly.

Ofsted inspectors evaluate schools' compliance with Government requirements regarding vetting of staff during the course of inspections of maintained schools. Reports published since April 2007 indicate that compliance is very high, and Ofsted will continue to report on this aspect. Where schools are found not to be compliant with Government requirements, this will carry implications for their other inspection judgements such as on leadership and management or the care, guidance and support of learners, as well as the grade for the school's overall effectiveness.

List 99 Review

In his statement to the House on 28 February 2007 my predecessor referred to the work undertaken in following up the commitments made on 19 January 2006 by the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West. In particular he referred to 56 cases where Ministers or officials had decided not to include an individual on List 99. My predecessor confirmed that all of these individuals had been followed up and that one individual was barred. In addition, he also referred to 32 cases of individuals who were on the sex offenders' register, but had not previously been referred to the Department by the police. He confirmed that all 32 individuals were now barred.

As well as ensuring that cases considered since 1997 where there were sexual offences which indicated a risk of harm to children were examined, the then Secretary of State also made a commitment on 19 January 2006 to examine similar cases determined before 1997. Sir Roger Singleton and his panel would examine those cases which, had the sex offenders' register existed, would have resulted in the individual's inclusion on the register and all cases involving a sexual offence or allegation which resulted in a decision not to include on List 99 or in a restriction or partial bar. My predecessor also asked Sir Roger to include all cases where there were sexual allegations between 1997 and 2005 in addition to all cases involving sexual offences or allegations before 1997. The aim of this was to establish whether any individual posed a risk of harm to children and if any action should be taken. As well as advising me on contemporary cases, Sir Roger Singleton's panel have also been examining these historical cases.

This important and painstaking work has been given the highest priority. In total 2,559 relevant case files have been reviewed by Sir Roger Singleton's panel. 1,741 of these files were from the period 1940 to 1997, and 818 were cases from the period 1997 to 2005. As a result of the panel's examination, and further information gathered from the police, 46 individuals have been barred.

This important work is continuing and the review of historical cases is approaching completion. I will bring a further report to the House in due course.

In his statement of 28 February 2007, my predecessor gave an update on the 210 cases where individuals had been placed on List 99, but subject to a partial bar which restricts their employment with children to certain types of establishment or types of work in schools. These cases have been examined and, where appropriate, enquiries made in order to gather additional information from police and other sources. My predecessor reported that in 42 of the 210 cases there is no indication of any sexual offence or allegation, and in one case the person concerned was deceased. These cases are closed. My predecessor also reported that there were 12 cases where, as a result of further enquiries, the partial bar had been changed to a full bar. I can now report that as a result of additional police information the partial bar has been changed to a full bar in 4 more cases, a total of 16. One further individual is deceased. The review of these partial bar cases is now complete. The panel has advised that no further action is required.

All the individuals who still have partial bars remain on List 99. A standard or enhanced CRB disclosure will reveal the barred status of the individuals concerned to an employer, and their status will also be disclosed by the required List 99 check.

All partial bar cases, along with other barred cases, will be considered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) for inclusion in the new barred lists under the terms of the Transitional Provisions Order made under the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act. If the ISA decides that these individuals pose a risk of harm they will be placed on the new barred lists.

My predecessor reported that as at 27 February 2007 there were 4,921 individuals on List 99. As at 13 March 2008, the number of individuals on List 99 is 8,036. The vast majority of the increase is as a result of the amended List 99 regulations which came into force on 28 February 2007.

I am extremely grateful for the work of Sir Roger Singleton and the panel of experts who have been advising me on List 99 cases. Their role in advising on List 99 cases will shortly be transferred to the new Independent Safeguarding Authority.

The New Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

Following the full implementation of the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act, decisions on whether to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults will be taken by the Independent Safeguarding Authority, an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office. Chaired by Sir Roger Singleton, the ISA will be responsible for making decisions under the new vetting and barring arrangements, and it was formally established in January 2008 to take forward the transitional and preparatory work in readiness for the new scheme. As part of the transition, from 31 March 2008, we will begin to transfer the administration of List 99 casework to the ISA, which will advise the Secretary of State on the barring decisions under the provisions of paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act.

The new vetting and barring scheme will replace the current List 99, Protection of Children Act (PoCA) list, the disqualification orders handed down by the courts, and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) list with new lists barring individuals from working with children and vulnerable adults. Statutory instruments have been made which come into force on 7 April 2008, which govern the arrangements under which ISA must include, or consider including, in the new barred lists all those individuals who are barred under the current schemes.

A Home Office Minister will make a statement to the House in due course on the ISA's work and progress towards the implementation of the new scheme.

School Admissions: Strengthening the System

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Last Tuesday I announced the next steps we are taking to strengthen the admissions system. This statement provides an update for the House, and sets out further steps we are taking to ensure the proper implementation of the School Admissions Code, so that no parent or child is disadvantaged by unfair admission arrangements.

Extending the Role of the Schools Adjudicator

As I announced last week we will be introducing an amendment to the Education and Skills Bill placing a duty on local authorities to report annually to the chief adjudicator on the legality, fairness and effectiveness of admission arrangements in their area. Following Royal Assent, the chief adjudicator will be able to draw upon these reports in his annual report to me.

The chief schools adjudicator, Dr Philip Hunter, has written to my Department to propose the following for this year:

> He will write to all local authorities before 15 April asking that they send him, by the end of June, a full set of admission arrangements for all the schools in their area, and their account of the legality, fairness and effectiveness of the admission arrangements that are being proposed for 2009 school entries in their area.
>
> He will consider these returns, act where necessary to ensure compliance with the code, and then report to me later in the summer on compliance for 2009 admissions.

I propose to accept his proposals, and have asked him to provide an interim update in July and a final report on 1 September. I have placed a copy of his letter and my reply to him in the Library of the House.

Objections and Adjudicator Report

I have also today published draft regulations for consultation that extend the period in which objections can be referred to the schools adjudicator on determined admission arrangements for entry in 2009. Extending the period from six to sixteen weeks will ensure that parents, local authorities, admissions authorities, admissions forums and religious authorities have sufficient time to check proposed admission arrangements, and can refer an objection up to 21 August each year for admissions in the following year.

As I said in my statement last week we are currently verifying our recent findings with the local authorities and schools concerned and I will make another statement to Parliament when this process is complete.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Service

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I would like to report to the House that this morning Sir Ken Knight, the Government's chief fire and rescue adviser, published his report into the fire and rescue service (FRS) operational response to the widespread summer flooding of 2007.

Sir Ken's report praises the FRS for its dedication and professionalism in dealing with severe challenges during the floods in protecting lives, infrastructure and property. I fully endorse those views.

The report examines a number of key issues including: FRS command and control, the national capability to respond to major floods, equipment and health and safety, training, effective use of flood risk information, the national co-ordination of FRS assets like high volume pumps, and the role of category 2 responders including utility companies in such emergencies.

The Government welcome this report. Its findings will contribute directly to Sir Michael Pitt's "Lessons Learned" review final report which is due to be published in the summer.

I have placed copies of the report in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consular Fees Order 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently undertaken a review of the fees charged for visa and consular services overseas. On 12 March 2008 Her Majesty in Council approved the Consular Fees Order 2008. This revokes and replaces the Consular Fees Order 2007 and two Consular Fees (Amendment) Orders. The Government are today announcing changes to the consular fees to be charged under this order with effect from 1 April 2008.

Passport fees, at home and overseas, remain at current levels. However the order enables fees for passport applications made both overseas and in the United Kingdom to be non-refundable in the event that the application is unsuccessful, whereas previously they were not.

The order includes a premium service legalisation fee of £67 for companies, solicitors and notaries, to be charged from a new office in central London. The standard legalisation service both offered by consular officers at posts overseas and by the London legalisation office (to move to Milton Keynes later in the year) will remain at £27.

Fees for receiving applications for entry clearance to the United Kingdom, for passing through the United Kingdom, direct airside transit visas and certificates of entitlement of abode, which were previously charged under the Consular Fees Order, are now charged under section 51 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and, in respect of those fees that are set at levels that exceed the administrative cost of the application, in reliance on section 42 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004. However fees for receiving applications for entry clearance to Commonwealth countries, British overseas territories and Crown Dependencies continue to be charged in the order. Fees for applications for entry clearance to the Crown Dependencies made from outside the UK have in most cases been increased by approximately 3 per cent. in line with inflation.

It is right that those who benefit from consular services should meet the cost of them, rather than the UK taxpayer. The new fees represent the full economic cost of what we do, and will ensure that British missions overseas continue to provide a high standard of service to consular customers.

The new fees are included in the attached table.

Table of Consular Fees

Part I

Legalisation

Fee			£
1.		Attesting or legalising a signature or seal except where —	
	(a)	the signature or seal is on a certificate or survey of foreign passenger ships running to or from the United Kingdom, or	
	(b)	the signature or seal is on a document required for the deposit or withdrawal of money in or from any British Post Office or other Government Savings Bank, or	
	(c)	the signature or seal is in connection with stocks or bonds on the registers of the Post Office, with Savings Bank annuities or with annuities granted direct by the National Debt Commissioners —	
	(i)	Standard service	27.00
	(ii)	Premium service	67.00

Part II

Notarial and Related Matters

Fee			£
2.		Preparing any certificate, declaration or document not listed elsewhere in this Schedule —	
	(a)	in standard form, for every copy	34.00
	(b)	not in standard form, for every 100 words —	
		(i) in English	42.00
		(ii) in any other language	67.00
3.		Preparing or signing, or both, a declaration of existence —	16.50
		Except in connection with pay or pensions payable by a department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, or the Government of any other Commonwealth country	
4.		Administering an oath or attesting the signature on a declaration or affirmation except where —	50.00
	(a)	the oath, declaration or affirmation is made under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995[a] or in connection with the loss of a passport	
	(b)	fee 16, 17, 27, 28, 29, 32, 38, 44, or 45 is to be taken	
5.		Supplying witnesses, for each witness	20.00
6.		Initialling alterations in any document not prepared by the consular officer or marking exhibits, for each initialling or marking	10.00
7.		Making or verifying (including certifying when necessary) a copy of a document —	
	(a)	in typescript, for each page	34.00
	(b)	reproduced by electronic means outside the consular premises, for each page	34.00
	(c)	reproduced by electronic means within the consular premises, for each page (with a minimum charge of £25)	5.00
8.		Uniting documents and sealing the fastening (except where fee 45 is applicable)	20.00
9.		Affixing a photograph to a document not prepared by the consular officer, and if necessary, certifying it (except where fee 16 or 17 is applicable)	20.00
10.		Obtaining a legalisation or other certification from another authority upon any document (in addition to other direct costs if any)	42.00
11.		Supplying certified copies of documents which form part of the records of a court which is, or was formerly, established under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts 1890[b] and 1913[c], for each page	59.00
12.		Making or verifying (including certifying when necessary) a written translation, for every 100 words or characters written in the foreign language (except where fee 31, 32 or 47 is to be taken) —	
	(a)	from or into Amharic, Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (three Japanese *Kana* count as one character when used independently)	67.00
	(b)	from or into any other language	42.00
13.		Translating and interpreting *viva voce* except when performing official duties, for every 15 minutes	30.00

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[a] 1995 c.21.
[b] 1890 c.37.
[c] 1913 c.16.

Part III

Passport Applications Made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Fee				£
14.	Administering an application made abroad, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, providing a 32 page passport —			
	(a) where the applicant is aged 16 years or over			119.00
	(b) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years)			76.00
15.	Administering an application made abroad, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, providing a 48 page passport			144.00
16.	Administering an application made abroad and, if the application is successful providing an Emergency Passport (or other document not otherwise provided for in lieu of a passport)			55.50
17.	Administering an application made abroad and, if the application is successful providing a Temporary Passport valid for not more than one year			70.50

Part IV

Passport Applications Made in the United Kingdom

Fee				£
18.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, issuing a 32 page passport —			
	(a)	for applications made by post —		
		(i)	where the applicant is aged 16 years and over	72.00
		(ii)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years)	46.00
	(b)	for applications made in person —		
		(i)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track service	97.00
		(ii)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track service	81.00
		(iii)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track collect service	109.00
		(iv).	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track collect service	91.00
		(v)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the premium service	114.00
		(vi)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the premium service	94.00
19.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost and stolen passport and, if the application is successful, issuing a 48 page passport —			
	(a)	for applications made by post		85.00
	(b)	for applications made in person —		
		(i)	using the fast-track service	105.00
		(ii)	using the fast-track collect service	109.00
		(iii)	using the premium service	123.00
20.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom and, if the application is successful, issuing a collective passport —			
	(a)	for applications made by post		39.00
	(b)	for applications made in person		54.00

Part V

Other Documents Relating to Travel or Entry into the UK, Commonwealth, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Fee			£
21.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, any letter, certificate, declaration or other document which may be required by an authority in any country or territory in connection with an application for or the issue or renewal of an entry clearance (for a country or territory for which the consular officer does not himself have authority to issue entry clearance), a residence permit or identity card or forwarding any other certificate or document (except a Home Office travel document and applications for registration and naturalisation)		59.00
22.	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Commonwealth country or of a dependency of a Commonwealth country (except where fee 24 is to be taken)		59.00
23.	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Crown Dependency or a British overseas territory (except where fee 24 is to be taken)		59.00
24.	Revalidating or renewing a Seaman's Certificate of Nationality and Identity or a Seaman's Identity Book (in addition to fee 21 where applicable)		59.00
25.	Receiving an application for entry clearance to a Commonwealth country or British overseas territory		44.00
26.	Receiving, outside the United Kingdom, an application for —		
	(a)	entry clearance to the Crown Dependencies —	

Part V

Other Documents Relating to Travel or Entry into the UK, Commonwealth, Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Fee			*£*
		(i) as a visitor, in each case for single, double and multiple entries valid for up to six months from the date of issue	65.00
		(ii) for settlement	515.00
		(iii) as a student	99.00
		(iv) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by entertainers in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 3 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	99.00
		(v) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by sportsmen and women in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 8 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	99.00
		(vi) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by voluntary workers in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 9 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	99.00
		(vii) for any purpose other than those listed sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) listed above	205.00
	(b)	a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode in the Crown Dependencies	200.00

Part VI

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Fee		*£*
27.	Receiving notice of an intended marriage, civil partnership or overseas relationship	59.00
28.	Solemnising or attending a marriage under the Foreign Marriage Acts 1892 [(d)] and 1947 [(e)]; administering oaths to the parties and registering the marriage	126.00
29.	Registering a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership (Registration Abroad and Certificates) Order 2005 [(f)]	126.00
30.	Issuing in English or in the local language a certificate that no impediment to an intended marriage or civil partnership has been shown to exist or issuing a "certificate de coutume" for an intended marriage or intended overseas relationship in accordance with local law	59.00
31.	Forwarding a record of a marriage under the local law to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with the Foreign Marriage Order 1970 [(g)], including the provision of any necessary certification	34.00
32.	Forwarding a record of an overseas relationship to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with the Civil Partnership (Registration Abroad and Certificates) Order 2005 [(h)], including the provision of any necessary certification	34.00

Part VI

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Fee		*£*
33.	Registering a birth or death (in addition to fee 35 where applicable)	92.00
34.	Making an addition to or correction in the consular register of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships at the request of the parties concerned	34.00
35.	Issuing a certified copy of an entry in the consular register of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships (in addition to fee 36 or 33 where applicable)	59.00

Part VII

Searches

Fee			*£*
36.		Making a search in (in addition to fee 2(a) and 35 where applicable) —	
	(a)	the consular registers of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships where the number or date of entry is not provided	59.00
	(b)	the records of the Identity and Passport Service where the request originates in the United Kingdom	14.00
	(c)	any other records or archives of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom	103.00
	(d)	naturalisation or registration records kept by a consular officer	72.00
37.		Having a search made for, or attempting to obtain copies of, or both, entries in the local registers or records of local authorities responsible for births, marriages or overseas relationships or for any other document, irrespective of whether an entry or record or any other document is found or obtained after a period of 18 months (in addition to direct costs exceeding £5.00 if any)	121.00

Part VIII

Nationality and Registration

Fee		*£*
38.	Administering an oath of British Citizenship under the British Nationality Act 1981 [(i)] at a citizenship ceremony	50.00
39.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, an application for registration or naturalisation to the Home Office	59.00
40.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, any other application requested by any Department of Her Majesty's Government	59.00
41.	Supervising a knowledge of life test for naturalisation under the British Nationality Act 1981 in consular premises	121.00

[(d)] 1892 c.23

[(e)] 1947 c.33.

[(f)] S.I. 2005/2761

[(g)] S.I. 1970/1539.

[(h)] S.I. 2005/2761

[(i)] 1981. c.61.

Part IX

Estates

Fee		£
42.	Administering fully or partly, safeguarding, or arranging the transmission of all or part of the personal effects and other estate of a deceased person or if sold, the proceeds, except for the wages and personal effects of a seaman. Except where the gross current market value is less than £1,000; charge based on the amount of the gross current market value	2% rounded to the nearest £10.00
	However where a local lawyer is employed and consular officer's actions are nominal	76.00

Part X

Attendances

Fee		£
43.	Attending (except in connection with trade and investment enquiries) for each hour or part hour. The time taken will include reasonable travelling time from the consular premises and return or out of office hours to the consular or other premises and return —	
	(a) at the consular premises or elsewhere during office hours except when attending to supervise an examination for two or more persons sitting examinations at the same time when the fee may be apportioned between them	121.00
	(b) at the consular premises or elsewhere outside office hours	121.00
	up to a maximum in any 24 hour period for each consular officer of	870.00

Part XI

Matters Relating to Legal Proceedings

Fee		£
44.	Presiding at the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, including any action by the consular officer as examiner —	
	(a) for up to two hours on the first day	241.00
	(b) for each additional hour or part hour	121.00
45.	Providing evidence of service or attempted service (in addition to fee 43 or 46)	121.00
46.	Providing the services of a consular officer or consular employee —	
	(a) to assist the consular officer in the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, for each such person —	
	for each hour or part hour	121.00
	(b) to affect or endeavour to affect service of a document, for each hour or part hour outside the consular premises —	
	during office hours	121.00
	outside office hours	151.00
47.	Forwarding a request to a local authority for the taking of evidence or the service of a document, where necessary, certifying the accuracy of a translation accompanying the document	121.00

Part XII

Repatriation and Financial Assistance

Fee		£
48.	Arranging the repatriation of a person or members of the same family travelling together	121.00
49.	Arranging for currency to be made available against the deposit of funds with Her Majesty's Government by any means (in addition to fee 43 where payable)	61.00

Part XIII

Shipping, Seamen and Related Matters

Fee		£
50.	Granting or considering whether to grant a provisional certificate of registry, whether the owner is a private individual or body corporate	352.00
51.	Receiving a return of the birth or death of any person on board a ship and endorsing the agreement with the crew accordingly	51.00
52.	Examining or arranging for the examination of provisions or water, payable by the party who proves to be in default (in addition to any cost of a survey)	51.00
53.	Noting a marine protest and furnishing one certified copy if required and for each further copy	42.00
54.	Extending a marine protest, filing the original and furnishing one certified copy is required (in addition to fee 1 and 2 where applicable) —	
	(a) for up to 200 words, excluding the declaratory clause	101.00
	(b) for every subsequent 100 words or less	42.00
55.	Making a request, or issuing or arranging for the issue of a document, in connection with a survey of a ship (in addition to fee 7 where applicable) —	
	(a) for the purposes of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) or of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as modified by its Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL)	67.00
	(b) for any other purpose	121.00
56.	Issuing a bill of health	42.00
57.	Preparing or signing, or both, any document, whether required by the Merchant Shipping Acts or by the local authorities, relating to the master or the members of the crew of a ship, to their numbers, names or other details, or to their engagement, discharge, desertion or death (except where fee 51 is taken in addition to fee 43, or a death inquiry is held under section 271 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995(b))	67.00
58.	Signing and, if required, sealing any documents at the request of the master of the ship (except where this is required under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, or fee 57 is taken)	67.00
59.	Inspecting —	
	(a) a ship's papers when required to enable a consular officer to do any matter or thing in respect of a ship (except where fee 57 is taken in addition to fee 43)	50.00
	(b) the marking of a ship, irrespective of the number of visits (in addition to fee 43)	50.00

(b) 1995 c.21.

JUSTICE

Prison Drug Treatment

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The Government are committed to improving prison drug treatment. Effective prison drug treatment lies at the heart of reducing re-offending; reducing the harm to individuals, their families and the wider community caused by drug misuse; and in helping offenders to lead law-abiding, productive lives upon release.

I am today with the Minister of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), and the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), announcing additional Department of Health (DH) funding for prison clinical drug treatment. £12.7 million was invested in 2007-08, this will rise to £24.4 million (actual) in 2008-09, £39 million (indicative) in 2009-10 and £43 million (indicative) in 2010-11. This additional funding, further developing the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) in prisons, is aimed at improving the volume and quality of drug treatment with a particular emphasis on the first 28 days in custody and better integration with the community services to which most drug-misusing prisoners will return.

We are also pleased to announce that a national prison drug treatment review group will be established to oversee the continued development of prison drug treatment, informed by recommendations arising from a review of prison drug treatment funding conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) last year.

We are pleased that Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel from the university of Central Lancashire has agreed to chair this group which will consider the PwC recommendations in more detail, agree a single set of priorities and compile national guidance around the streamlining of the commissioning, delivery, funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders. Lord Patel has made an important contribution both in his role as chairman on the Mental Health Commission and as a non-executive director on the board of the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

Considerable progress has already been made—funding for prison treatment has increased year on year (up 1008 per cent. since 1996-97), prison drug treatment services have developed rapidly in the past few years with record numbers engaged in treatment. However at the same time, delivery systems had become increasingly complex. In May 2007 the Secretary of State for Health and the then Home Secretary requested an urgent review of the use of existing resources for drug treatment in prisons. The objective of the review was to explore how existing resources could be used more effectively to ensure that that prison drug treatment services reduced re-offending and met the treatment needs for prisoners throughout their time in custody and in preparation for their release.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) was appointed to undertake the review and their report was received in December 2007. The PwC report acknowledged the considerable investment in prison-based drug services over the last 10 years which had lead to major improvements, with many examples of excellent practice. But the report also identified the lack of a clear inter-departmental strategy; fragmented organisational arrangements for funding, commissioning, performance management and delivery of services; the lack of a clear evidence base for some services currently offered; and inefficiencies and gaps in services. The report recommended eight steps which should now be taken to build upon and improve the delivery of drug services to offenders in prison and to extract better value from the considerable resources invested.

The principal recommendation is to set up a national offender drug strategy group to commission a series of projects that would:

determine and agree the key outcomes needed for prisoners and offenders, both in prison and on release into the community;

establish a set of national minimum standards for drug treatment in prison;

identify opportunities for achieving efficiency savings to invest in prison and offender drug treatment services;

examine the case for prioritising some groups of prisoners and offenders;

develop the commissioning model at national, regional and local level;

develop a single health and a single criminal justice funding stream to target services more effectively; and

agree systems for improved information sharing to support better quality performance management and case management.

Copies of the executive summary of the PwC report, "Review of Prison-Based Drug Treatment Funding, December 2007" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health of the Working Age Population

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I have today received Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population, "Working for a Healthier Tomorrow", commissioned by our Departments last year.

The report sets out the impact of working age ill-health and the scale of the challenge ahead of us. Ill-health among working age people impacts on many of our key priorities, such as eradicating child poverty, achieving full employment, tackling health inequalities and creating a strong and successful economy. While we have done much across government on this agenda over the past few years, there is clearly more still to do. This is the focus of today's review.

The Government welcome the review and will consider Dame Carol's findings carefully. Over the coming months we will study her recommendations closely and will develop detailed proposals to make a real difference. This work will support our wider challenge of ensuring that the NHS becomes more than just a treatment service for patients who are ill, but helps to keep people healthy and prevent ill-health from occurring too.

While it will take some time to develop this package of measures, I can today set out the immediate steps we are taking to ensure that 2008 marks a step change in the way we approach the health of the working age population.

Dame Carol has flagged up that employee access to occupational health is often poor and there needs to be increased support for smaller employers. We can today announce that we are taking a next small step to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). An £11 million capital fund is being established to allow us to set up six new NHS Plus demonstration sites to look at innovative ways of supporting SMEs with occupational health services, adding to the five demonstration sites we established last year.

Meanwhile, we recognise that early intervention is crucial to helping people with health conditions stay in work and preventing milder health conditions from worsening. Therefore we will also be looking at the best way of exploring Dame Carol's suggestion of a "Fit for Work" service for people in the early stages of sickness absence. Any such pilot will be evaluated to assess the benefits to individuals and businesses and the level of potential savings which could support the costs. There may also be the opportunity for employers to contribute to such a service if it were found to be effective.

We are also committed to improving the support for those people who do fall out of work on to benefits. The new employment and support allowance and the significant investment we are making in Pathways to Work will help many new benefit recipients to return to work and fulfil their potential. I am also committed to helping those people who are currently on incapacity benefit. While they can already volunteer for the support available through Pathways, it is my ambition that, over time and as resources permit, we transfer everyone on incapacity benefit to the employment and support allowance. We will also look to apply a more active approach to existing incapacity benefit claimants as well as new ones, starting with those under 25. We will explore using a new funding mechanism to reward private and voluntary sector specialist providers for investing in helping long-term incapacity benefits claimants to return to work.

We will also ensure that, from 2010, all existing incapacity benefit customers will have the new work capability assessment applied when their entitlement to benefit is due to be reassessed. The new test will be a more accurate assessment of functional ability, reflecting the activities needed in today's workplace, and looking at what people can do, as well as what they cannot do. In particular the new test will include a more extensive and fairer assessment of mental function.

Dame Carol rightly points out that mental ill-health represents a key challenge for Government. As such, supporting people with mental health conditions will be a central element of the Government response, with our proposed national strategy on mental health and work forming part of the package. The development of the strategy will be led in part by Dame Carol herself, working closely with stakeholders in this area. As we develop this strategy we will assess the effectiveness of existing programmes and treatments on people with mental health conditions. We will also consider the findings of the Royal College of Psychiatrists report, "Mental Health and Work", commissioned to support Dame Carol's review.

We are also committed to ensuring that our "Pathways to Work" and "Improving Access to Psychological Therapies" (IAPT) programmes are aligned as they are rolled out across the country, ensuring that people receive mental health and employment support in a joined-up fashion. I can today also announce that DWP will provide funding to test placing private or voluntary sector advisers in the IAPT programme, offering employment advice to working age people receiving therapy, whether in employment or not.

The measures I have set out today are our first steps in the journey set out by Dame Carol. We are committed to making this journey and radically improving the health of working age people. We want to help more people to enter or remain in work and establish healthier workplaces as the norm, with an ultimate ambition of good jobs for all. Success in this agenda will benefit individuals, families, communities, businesses and the economy as a whole.

Copies of "Working for a Healthier Tomorrow" and its accompanying evidence summary will be placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 18 March 2008

TREASURY

Northern Rock

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): As I have previously announced, continuing to support Northern Rock will require the approval of the European Commission under state aid rules. On 5 December 2007, the European Commission announced that it had authorised, under state aid rules, the Government's package of measures to support Northern Rock. Also in line with the rules, the Government were obliged to notify by 17 March 2008 a restructuring plan for Northern Rock.

Accordingly, the Government yesterday formally notified the European Commission of their proposals to continue to provide state aid to Northern Rock to support a restructuring of the company during the period of temporary public ownership.

The Board of Northern Rock is today setting out in general the future direction of the business during the period of temporary public ownership. The company will submit a final business plan to HM Treasury for approval by the end of March. Thereafter, I will report to the House further.

I have placed in the Library of the House a copy of the statement issued today by Northern Rock. This sets out the basis for the removal of Government support through the creation of a smaller, more focused, financially viable mortgage and savings bank, which will be returned to the private sector.

On this basis, the Government's state aid notification sets out that Northern Rock's future will be based around four strategic priorities:

Contracting to a smaller, sustainable business through a reduction of around half in the asset base by 2011, whilst maintaining a modest level of new loan origination.

Progressive repayment of the Bank of England loan and release of the Government guarantees over the next three to four years, while increasing the level of retail deposits modestly to form a larger share of total funding.

Restructuring the organisation and its operations so that these are aligned to the business objectives. The company's initial assessment is that this will involve staffing levels falling by around a third by 2011, with the majority of the reduction likely to occur in the first year. The final figure will depend on the business plan ultimately adopted, and the evolution of the business in the light of market and economic developments.

Strengthening risk management in key business areas.

Northern Rock has said that it is committed to doing all it can to communicate openly with staff and provide the best possible support through the changes ahead, including working closely with UNITE and other employee representatives. The bank proposes to provide outplacement services to help affected staff find alternative employment in the region, working closely with local agencies.

The Government are mindful of the impact on the employees of this important regional employer and will support the implementation of the plan. To help those people affected I have asked the chief executive of the Regional Development Agency, ONE NorthEast, to lead the Government's response. ONE NorthEast have already begun constructive discussions with Northern Rock and will work with local authorities, Jobcentre Plus, Business Link NorthEast, the Learning and Skills Council and Northern Rock's management to co-ordinate the Government's support for those involved.

As set out in Budget 2008, the Bank of England financing arrangements for Northern Rock will remain in place for an interim period, and will be replaced by a direct Treasury loan over the course of 2008-09. The Government will set out the arrangements for the repayment of the loan when the business plan is finalised.

The existing Government guarantee arrangements remain in place. Depositors' money continues to be safe and secure.

I will continue to keep the House informed and will report further when the business plan is completed.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Youth Taskforce Action Plan

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): Today I am publishing the action plan for the youth taskforce. The youth taskforce in my Department was created in October 2007 from the respect task force to build on Government's success in tackling antisocial behaviour. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The new taskforce will concentrate on the minority of young people who get into serious trouble, including anti-social behaviour, and cause serious problems in their neighbourhoods. It will work with local partners—children's services, the police, schools and community safety teams—to ensure that across the country every area has an effective approach for dealing with young people in serious difficulty.

The approach needed to change young people's behaviour and deal with the problems that concern communities, must combine:

tough enforcement where young people's behaviour is unacceptable

non-negotiable support to help young people overcome underlying problems where they have arisen

prevention to ensure we are dealing with emerging problems before they become serious and entrenched

Working with the Home Office—which retains responsibility for the overall response to antisocial behaviour—and other Departments across Government as well as local areas, the youth taskforce will help to ensure that young people and their families get the right package of intervention, challenge and support not only to curtail bad behaviour but to change it.

This action plan sets out 18 commitments it will deliver, and a total funding package of up to £218.5 million. Key measures include:

New intensive intervention projects to address the most challenging young people. We will apply the principles used successfully in family intervention projects (FIPs) to the most challenging and antisocial young people. Over 80 per cent. of families involved in a FIP reduced or ceased antisocial behaviour. I will invest £13 million over three years to establish 20 pioneering schemes to turn round the lives of around 1,000 of the most challenging young people each year.

New early intervention "challenge and support" projects. These projects will systematically identify young people involved in or at risk of antisocial behaviour and crime, and intervene early to nip problems in the bud. Help will be offered, but will not be optional—where necessary tools like parenting orders and individual support orders which are court orders will be used to make individuals take the help they need. I will invest £13 million over three years to work with around 15,000 young people involved in or at risk of anti-social behaviour per year.

Continued investment to support local services to tackle antisocial behaviour. Over the next three years, the Government will continue to invest more than £100 million to support action to tackle antisocial behaviour: antisocial behaviour teams in every area; the successful national network of family intervention projects tackling the most anti-social families; and parenting experts working with families of young people behaving badly.

Help every local authority area put in place the targeted youth support reforms by December 2008. The youth taskforce will put additional resources into reforming support services for at risk teenagers in England. This will enable local authorities to identify vulnerable young people early, provide swift support to stop problems from escalating, and ensure young people receive joined-up, effective support and challenge through multi-agency teams. I will invest £5 million to provide expert support from the Training and Development Agency (TDA) to help local areas implement the reforms, with most help to those areas facing the greatest challenges.

Increase young people's participation in positive activities. I set out in "Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities" the importance of enabling young people to take part in constructive activities in their leisure time. Well-supported activities also increase community cohesion by bridging gaps between young and old, and between different income, ethnic and faith groups. The taskforce will support implementation of "Aiming High" by working with 50 local areas to target activity and invest £22.5 million next year to increase young people's participation in activities in the most deprived areas, and to make sure facilities are there, and open at the times young people and communities need them—Friday and Saturday nights.

Helping every parent do their best for their child. In the children's plan I made clear that the state does not bring up children—parents do. But parents are a key influence and I am making extra help available to ensure they meet their responsibilities. I will invest up to £60 million to expand the successful parenting early intervention pathfinders. These projects have improved the support available for parents of children aged 8-13 at risk in 18 areas across the country. They have almost halved the number of parents who considered their children have significant behavioural difficulties. We will expand this programme over the next three years to the majority of local authorities, to reach over 18,000 people each year and ensure that more parents receive the support they need to help with their child's behaviour.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Control System

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): I am today publishing a consultation document on proposals for the future development of the building control system.

Home owners have the right to expect their homes to be built and renovated to minimum standards set out in building regulations. I want to make life more difficult for the cowboy builders that are out there whilst letting the high quality majority of the industry get on with the job. This should reduce the cost and burden of the process on both the industry and local authorities.

The building control system is critical to our ability to deliver a range of wider aims on housing supply, sustainability and other key health and safety related issues. Following discussion with stakeholders over the last two years it has become apparent that while the system is not broken, there are a number of issues which needed to be addressed to ensure that the system is fit for purpose now and in the future.

This consultation document also ensures we have a customer-focused building control system in which industry is able to plan with certainty and which is fully able to support the delivery of our housing supply and zero carbon housing targets in a way which delivers high levels of compliance at a reduced burden to industry and other stakeholders.

This consultation follows the paper published in March 2007 which set out the key areas for reform that we believed had the potential to address the main weaknesses in the system.

The proposals fall into the following five areas:

developing a vision for building control

establishing a better approach to the way we deliver regulations and guidance

modernising inspection and enforcement

providing alternative routes to compliance

enabling improved performance and capacity

The consultation is accompanied by impact assessments. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses, or it can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/futurebuildingcontrol

Consultation closes on 10 June 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I am representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The presidency hopes to adopt Council conclusions on the Commission's communication "Preparing for the 'Health Check' of the CAP Reform". And it is also likely that the Commission's proposal to increase milk national quotas by 2 per cent. will be adopted.

The following issues will be raised under any other business:

The Agriculture Commissioner will provide an update of the agricultural strand of WTO-DDA negotiations. France will table a memorandum for debate on competition policy in agriculture to address the organisation of the agrifood sectors.

Ireland will express concerns about the future development of the sheep sector. Poland will ask the Commission for a further extension of market support measures to alleviate the difficulties currently being experienced in the pigmeat sector.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FCO Services (Performance Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown has made the following written ministerial statement:

FCO Services will become a trading fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 1 April 2008.1 have set the following performance targets for 2008-09:

An in-year surplus before interest and tax of at least £1.3 million.

A return on capital employed of at least 3.5 per cent. (weighted average).

A wider market revenue growth of 10 per cent. on that achieved in 2007-08, assessed on a normalised baseline.

A customer satisfaction rating derived from an independent, quantitative survey of at least 85 per cent. satisfied or very satisfied.

A utilisation rate of revenue earning staff of at least 65 per cent.

A contribution to the FCO's comprehensive spending review commitments by delivering £2 million of cash savings, achieved through price stabilisation.

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its annual report for 2008-09.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Consumer Affairs, the Member for Harrow, West (Mr.Thomas), and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels on 10 March 2008.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council

The Council discussed preparations for the European Council on 13 and 14 March. The European Council will focus on the launch of a new three-year cycle of the EU's strategy for growth and jobs; an integrated climate and energy policy; and the stability of financial markets.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary supported the presidency's focus on delivering for the EU's citizens, and agreed with the priorities identified for action, particularly in taking forward the EU's commitment to delivering on the ambitious climate change goals set last year at the spring European Council and the need for the EU to lead wider international work towards a comprehensive climate change agreement for the post-2012 period.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary emphasised the need for urgency from the European Council on delivery of the EU's ambitious climate change goals; in particular, a mechanism to deliver the carbon capture and storage demonstration plants promised by the 2007 spring European Council; and the centrality of ETS to tackling climate change. He also stressed the importance of Europe not retreating into economic protectionism.

External Relations

Doha Development Agenda

Commissioner Mandelson updated the Council on prospects for negotiations on the World Trade Organisation's Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

The Government agreed Council conclusions that reaffirmed the importance of achieving a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced final outcome in all areas of the DDA, that would meet both the EU's objectives and the needs and interests of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs). My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Consumer Affairs supported the Commission's efforts to move the DDA negotiations forward. The Council agreed that the GAERC should convene a special meeting to coincide with possible WTO ministerial negotiations in Geneva.

Georgia

Ministers had an exchange of views on the EU's co-operation with Georgia, and discussed the EU's provision of support for electoral reform, which the Government support, in the run-up to parliamentary elections in May 2008.

Zimbabwe

The Government agreed Council conclusions that underlined the EU's concerns about the humanitarian, political and economic situation in Zimbabwe and conditions on the ground; urged the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure that the forthcoming elections meet international norms and standards, and welcomed President Mbeki's mediation efforts on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I intervened to underline that the conditions for forthcoming elections were extremely poor and to regret that the EU had not been invited to send observers.

Iran

Foreign Ministers had an exchange of views following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1803. Ministers agreed that UNSCR 1803 clearly indicated that the international community remained united on the issue of Iran's nuclear ambitions. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the importance of the EU maintaining pressure on Iran to comply with its international obligations.

Middle East Peace Process

High Representative Solana briefed Ministers on his visit to the region on 2 to 5 March. The EU expressed concern at the worsening situation, following the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel, as well as the six March killings at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem.

Ministers also expressed concern about the recent approval of settlement activity by the Israeli Government at Givat Ze'ev. The EU continues to make it clear that settlement building anywhere in the occupied Palestinian territories is illegal under international law and presents an obstacle to peace.

Western Balkans

Over lunch, Foreign Ministers discussed recent developments in Kosovo and the Western Balkans.

The Council agreed conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), welcoming the unanimous decision of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board to keep that the Office of the High Representative should remain in place until the necessary objectives and conditions are met. The Council also gave full support to BiH's EU perspective, and urged the authorities to do everything necessary to fulfil the four conditions necessary for signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The Council also adopted conclusions on the Regional Co-operation Council reaffirming the EU's commitment to the RCC as a framework for the countries of South Eastern Europe to promote stability, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity.

US Visa Waiver Scheme

The Slovenian presidency briefed Ministers on discussions with the US on the visa waiver programme and an exchange of views followed. The Government support the Commission in its wish to reach an agreement with the US on this issue.

Afghanistan

The Council agreed conclusions reaffirming the EU's commitment to long-term support for Afghanistan and promotion of Afghan leadership, good governance and the development of a democratic, secure and sustainable Afghan state with respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Council also expressed support for an international conference in Paris in June to review implementation of the Afghanistan compact and welcomed the progress of the EU police mission towards full deployment by the end of March 2008.

Pakistan

The Government agreed Council conclusions on Pakistan's February elections as an important step in the development of Pakistan's democracy. The conclusions also commit the EU to supporting Pakistan in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as combating extremism, while promoting development and economic growth, through trade in particular. The Council agreed the EU's intention to review its policy towards Pakistan in support of these objectives.

HEALTH

Dissolved NHS Trusts (Public Dividend Capital)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Pursuant to the dissolution of four national health service trusts and one special health authority between 1 April 2007 and 1 October 2007, and their reconfiguration involving the establishment of two new NHS trusts, I propose to create originating capital for the two new NHS trusts created equal to the net assets transferred to them and also to remit the outstanding debt of the dissolved trusts.

These operations involved no overall loss to the Exchequer. Her Majesty's Treasury has today presented a minute to the House giving particulars and circumstances of the proposed remission which it has approved in principle.

Private and Voluntary Health Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Government are currently undertaking a major programme to reform health and adult social care to improve the quality and safety of services. They are committed to make major changes to the current regulatory and system management frameworks covering health and adult social care, and are legislating to that purpose in the current session. This programme of change will put patients and service users at the forefront of driving forward improvements to services through increased choice, improved commissioning, and new regulatory arrangements.

In 2009 we plan, subject to the passage of legislation, to replace the current regulatory bodies covering health and social with a new single regulator—the Care Quality Commission, which will build on the work of the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and the Mental Health Act Commission. However, certain changes to the current regulatory system for private and voluntary health care are needed earlier to ensure that we can continue to regulate this sector effectively during the run-up to the wider changes to the regulatory and system management frameworks. These changes are designed to:

remove a small number of private and voluntary health care services from regulation by the Healthcare Commission where the risk to the public is small; and

ensure that there is clarity about how certain regulations should apply to private and voluntary health care.

We therefore present proposals to amend the regulations governing private and voluntary health care. We are satisfied that the amendments proposed in this consultation will deliver improved health care outcomes which are consistent with the risk based approach to regulation we envisage in our wider and longer-term system reforms.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. It is also available on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm.

The consultation will end on 10 June 2008. After analysis of the consultation responses, we will make a decision on whether or not to proceed with these proposals, and to lay the new regulations before Parliament.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Taser (Police Use)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): This statement is to notify the House about the release of the first formal quarterly figures on the use of Taser.

Taser has been available to all authorised firearms officers since September 2004 as a less lethal option for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers' manual of guidance on police use of firearms.

On 20 July 2007 I gave my approval for chief officers throughout England and Wales to deploy Taser for use by authorised firearms officers in operations or incidents where the criteria for the authorisation to issue firearms does not apply, but where officers are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and or the subject.

I also approved a 12-month trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained units who are not firearms officers in similar circumstances. The trial commenced on 1 September 2007 involving 10 forces.

Figures on the use of Taser are broken down into three tables:

All uses of Taser in the UK since introduction in April 2004 up to 30 November 2007;

Taser use by authorised firearms officers outside of a firearms authority from 20 July 2007 to 30 November 2007;

Taser use by specially trained units in the first 3 months in the ten trial forces areas from 1 September 2007 to 30 November 2007.

The figures show that Taser has been used by authorised firearms officers 163 times outside of a firearms authority from 20 July 2007 to the end of November 2007, and by specially trained units 16 times in the first quarter of the trial. It should be noted that only six of the 10 forces carrying out the trial, actually started on 1 September, and that this excluded West Yorkshire police service and the Metropolitan police service. Therefore, we expect the next quarter figures for the trial to be higher.

Publication of these figures is in line with the Government's rigorous and measured approach to extending the use of Taser and to subject the trial to a full and thorough evaluation.

I have placed a copy of the figures in the Library of the House. Figures on laser use will be published regularly on a quarterly basis in May, August and November 2008 on the Home Office scientific development branch (HOSDB) website.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

English Language Skills (Bangladesh)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): At the request of the Bangladesh Government, the UK has approved £50 million over nine years for an ambitious programme which will significantly increase English language skills for 27 million people in Bangladesh. This will make a valuable and lasting contribution to economic and social development in that country.

"English in Action" is an innovative and comprehensive programme that will target a number of different ages and groups. In particular, it will make more young Bangladeshis ready for employment. It will provide teachers at primary and secondary level with a firm foundation for teaching English; and it will offer opportunities for using and practising English in a variety of economic and social contexts. The programme will also address a major skills gap in the Bangladesh workforce and will help the country become more competitive in both internal and international labour markets.

Designed to reach approximately 27 million people, "English in Action" will make use of rapidly expanding mobile phone technology in Bangladesh. It will use television and radio to stimulate interest and debate, and to reach the maximum number of people with appropriate learning programmes. The "English in Action" programme will also provide a wide range of supportive printed and audio learning materials which will be available to a wide range of learners.

UK development assistance in Bangladesh promotes good governance, economic growth, trade and access to basic services. The "English in Action" programme will contribute to improving economic growth and to increasing the quality of education provision in Bangladesh.

A recent Bangladesh Government report identified unemployment and growing income inequality as two major constraints which may prevent the country from achieving the millennium development goals. "English in Action" will be an important contribution in assisting Bangladesh to overcome such constraints and to improve the livelihoods of its people.

We will continue to provide significant support for Bangladesh as an emerging economy and confident, stable state into the 21st century.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

MPs' Pay and Pensions Review

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I announced in a written ministerial statement, 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 56WS, volume 470, the terms of reference for the Sir John Baker review.

The review team have now published a consultation document to help gather evidence that will inform recommendations. Written submissions have been requested by Friday 11 April 2008.

A copy of the consultation document can be found at: http://baker-review.ome.uk.com/

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 19 March 2008

TREASURY

Finance Bill

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): It is expected that the Finance Bill will be published on 27 March. Explanatory notes on the Bill's clauses will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Members of the public will be able to obtain copies of the explanatory notes from the Treasury. These will also be available on the Treasury's website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Diploma Gateway 2 Process

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): I have today announced the outcome of the Diploma Gateway 2 process to approve consortia to offer between one and 10 of the first 10 diploma lines to young people from September 2009. A list of the consortia and their approval status has been placed in the Library of the House.

The diplomas will broaden the options available to young people, encouraging more to continue learning for longer and gain the qualifications they need to progress into further and higher education, and employment. They are fundamental to our proposals on raising the participation age, as set out in the Education and Skills Bill introduced to the House on 28 November 2007. The availability of the first 10 diploma lines from 2009 shows that we are on track with our priorities set out in our "14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan (2005)".

DEFENCE

Ofsted Agreement Sign-Off

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce to the House that later today I will be signing an agreement with Ofsted to enable the inspectorate to undertake external inspection of our individual training and education provision.

As Members are aware, commissioned external inspection of individual training was established in 2004 when we signed an agreement with the adult learning inspectorate (ALI) to inspect the care and welfare provision for recruits and trainees in the armed forces. The ALI reported its original findings in the "Safer Training" report (2005) and commented on the improvements we had made in "Better Training" (2007).

We recognise that the training we provide to recruits and trainees is challenging and demanding in order to prepare them to join their chosen service and to use their trade or specialist skills on operations. We have used external opinion to optimise the significant changes that we have made to improve the training environment, reduce risks to recruits and trainees and enhance the support we provide to individuals. We wish to continue to improve and develop, supported by the scrutiny of Ofsted inspection.

In the coming months Ofsted will look at the armed forces recruitment and selection process, following the recruit's journey from the armed forces career office and acquaint courses, through to arrival at phase 1 recruit training. Additionally, Ofsted will visit and inspect a number of training units and establishments, commenting on care and welfare provision and structures for the internal review of supervisory care and welfare processes. As with the ALI, Ofsted will report and publish its findings. This will happen in spring 2009.

I am grateful to the chief inspector of Ofsted for agreeing to undertake the commissioned inspection programme outlined above.

UK Reserve Forces

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): Over the course of January and February this year, the Ministry of Defence conducted an analysis of the policy baseline establishing the capabilities required of the reserve forces. It concluded that while, in broad terms, our existing policy on the reserve forces remains sound, there were some areas that would benefit from further development.

Taking all of these factors into account, I have decided to set up a review to examine how our reserve forces should be most effectively configured, structured, equipped, located and trained for Defence's current and future needs. The review will commence on 1 April 2008.

The reserve forces provide the ability to deliver the capabilities required for relatively infrequent operations on the basis that this is the most cost-effective way of delivering the required effect, within the associated lower readiness timelines. For the Territorial Army this means that they are sized for large scale operations and for the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force for medium and small-scale operations.

The review will take account of the way that reserve forces have been employed on current operations as well as their potential use in other roles related to projected requirements. It will consider the scope for greater integration into the regular forces structure. It will also investigate how the reserves can support effectively stabilisation and reconstruction tasks. There is widespread support among the services for this review. 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Territorial Army, which will be celebrated under the banner of "TA100". This is an appropriate time for us to consider how to ensure that the way the reserves contribute to the defence of the nation is as relevant for the 21st century as it was in the 20th century.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the reserves for the enormous contribution they make to our defence capability. Their commitment and sacrifice are key to our continued success. With around 17,000 reservists having deployed on operations since January 2003, they have played an invaluable role on current operations.

The review will be conducted transparently and inclusively, and will involve consultation with a wide variety of interested parties. The review is not resource driven. In order to ensure coherence, some of the initiatives we announced in March 2006 to rebalance and restructure the Territorial Army, where practicable, will be deferred until the review is complete.

I will make a further announcement on the conclusions and recommendations of the review in due course.

Director of Service Prosecutions

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that Bruce Houlder QC has been appointed to the new post of Director of Service Prosecutions.

The appointment of the Director of Service Prosecutions is an important step towards the full implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006, which will for the first time provide a single system of service law for all three of our armed forces when it comes into effect in January 2009.

Mr. Houlder will take up post in May and will have a comprehensive induction prior to taking up his full prosecutorial role when the new Service Prosecuting Authority comes into effect in January 2009, replacing the three existing single service prosecuting authorities.

Mr. Houlder has a wealth of experience in the civilian justice system and was made a Queen's counsel in 1994.

Armed Forces Retention

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The Ministry of Defence is determined to recruit and retain the right people for our armed forces. I wish to announce today two measures that I believe will enhance the attractiveness to service personnel of continuing their service career.

First, I am announcing a significant increase in the value of the commitment bonus to £15,000 for those who agree to serve another five years, nearly trebling the amount currently available. From 2009, all those below officer level passing the four-year service point will have access to the new scheme. This is designed to encourage further retention in the critical four to eight-year period. The longer they serve the higher the payment will be.

Secondly, we are launching a new initiative on home ownership for service personnel. Important steps have already been taken to assist service personnel with home ownership and to improve access to affordable housing, including the introduction of long service advance of pay and, more recently, the extension to service personnel of the Government's key worker living programme. The increase to the commitment bonus set out above can also help more junior personnel achieve their home ownership aspirations. MOD now wishes to go beyond this with a pilot scheme tailored to the particular needs of service personnel. In the coming months we will work with commercial providers and public bodies to identify the most suitable approach, which is likely to be based on shared equity or rent to buy arrangements, and involve an element of MOD investment. This will be launched during 2009-10, to run for up to four years, and some £20 million has been allocated for this purpose.

HEALTH

Code of Practice for the Promotion of NHS Funded Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): "The Code of Practice for the Promotion of NHS Funded Services" will be published this afternoon.

The "Promotion Code" will be placed in the Library and copies will be available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

WALES

Legislative Competence - Social Welfare and Other Fields Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly of Wales Legislative Competence—Social Welfare and Other Fields Order dealing with vulnerable children has been laid today, as Command Paper (7343). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 20 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (Targets 2008-09)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today announcing the key performance targets that have been agreed for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

The agency's principal financial target for 2008-09 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Department for Communities and Local Government of £1,340,000 with an additional dividend payment of £360,000 if trading revenues meet target. The agency will pay an exceptional dividend to the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2008 of £2,800,000.

An operational target has been set to achieve room occupancy within the centre of 71 per cent. of capacity.

The agency also has the following quality of service targets:

Overall score for value for money satisfaction of greater than 90 per cent.

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events.

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

Return on Capital Employed

HM Treasury set an annual return on capital employed of 6 per cent. for the centre's trading fund activities.

External review

During the first quarter of 2008-09, the agency will conduct a strategic review to consider the following:

1. The opportunity to sustain and grow the existing conference business in its current marketplace. This will include:

An assessment of the UK conference centre market generally, commenting on growth, segmentation and trends, and how the QEIICC is positioned within it;

The opportunity to leverage value from the Olympics;

An assessment on the amount and timing of any investment required in the building; and

An assessment as to whether a private sector operator of the business might create additional value, and options for introducing such an operator.

2. The potential value of the site to a third-party developer on both a current use and a change of use basis.

3. To advise of any further strategic options that could create value to the taxpayer.

Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities is today publishing for consultation her proposed changes to the draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the north-west of England.

The Regional Spatial Strategy forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the north-west; and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It provides the spatial plan for the development of the region, and provides the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment.

The current Strategy, initially published as regional planning guidance, became the Regional Spatial Strategy in September 2004 with the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. A draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy was submitted to Government in January 2006 by the North-West Regional Assembly. It was subsequently tested in an examination in public between November 2006 and February 2007 and the report of the independent panel that conducted this examination was published in May 2007.

The Secretary of State has considered the recommendations of this independent panel which held the examination in public, and has taken into account the representations made on the draft revision, and also changes in Government policy since the draft revision was submitted.

Today's publication of the Secretary of State's proposed changes now represents the commencement of a public consultation until 23 May 2008. Also being published are the reports of a Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Changes and a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Following consideration of the responses to the consultation, the Secretary of State hopes to publish the finalised Regional Spatial Strategy for the north-west of England in July 2008. On final publication it will supersede the current RSS.

Copies of the relevant documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses and have been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

DEFENCE

Creation of the Centre for Defence Enterprise

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The MOD is establishing a pilot Centre for Defence Enterprise to facilitate enterprise in the defence sector, continuing the pursuit of a broader supplier base for advanced technology to deliver a battle-winning edge to the UK armed forces, as set out in the defence industrial strategy, defence technology strategy and MOD innovation strategy.

The Centre for Defence Enterprise will bring together innovators and investors with an interest in potential defence technology. This will be a further incentive for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises and academia to engage with the MOD and the established defence industry. It is also the opportunity for the UK investment community to enter the major business of supplying the UK armed forces.

The initial pilot will be focused on a physical centre at the Harwell science and innovation campus to allow for interested parties to come and understand the needs of the Department and align their ideas and energy to make a real difference to the frontline. The internet will be utilised to ensure that the whole of the UK can join this endeavour and further open defence to all UK innovators.

The initial pilot will test the level of engagement and needs of the innovators and investors to develop the business model for greatest effectiveness. Most products of this initiative are anticipated to take several years to mature, although some could deliver to the frontline much quicker if suitable.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Diplomatic Couriers (Visas)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): In his oral statement to the House on 16 July 2007 on measures the Government would impose in response to Russia's failure to answer satisfactorily our request for the extradition Andrey Lugovoy, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary agreed that he would keep Parliament informed of any changes to our visa regime for Russian officials.

One of the measures imposed in July last year was to restrict visas for Russian officials to being single-entry and time-limited. This brought UK practice into line with Russian practice for issuing visas to UK officials. I wish to inform Parliament that, by agreement between the UK and Russia, official couriers will be issued with multiple-entry visas, which accords with recent Russian visa practice towards UK couriers. The change is aimed at maximising the efficiency and efficacy of our network of couriers, and will enable our couriers to support better our diplomatic posts in Russia.

All other visa arrangements remain unchanged.

JUSTICE

Juvenile Secure Settings (Restraint Methods)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 8 October 2007 my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families and I announced the appointment of Andrew Williamson CBE and Peter Smallridge CBE as independent co-chairs of the review of restraint in juvenile secure settings (Official Report, Column 20WS). The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have joint responsibility for the review.

My right hon. Friend and I asked the chairs to report their recommendations to us by 4 April.

During their consultation on the independent review, the chairs have met a wide range of interested parties and have taken extensive written evidence. The chairs have also visited all secure training centres and a number of young offender institutions and secure children homes to learn first-hand about restraint and to hear of the experiences and views of both young people and staff. The chairs are grateful to all those who have provided evidence to the review.

The chairs have now moved towards a detailed consideration of their findings. The chairs have identified what they consider to be a significant remaining gap in the evidence base for their report. This concerns the use of restraint in secure children's homes. Unlike the position in secure training centres and young offender institutions, there is a wide range of restraint methods available for commercial procurement in secure children's homes. There is no central prescription of techniques and it is the responsibility of each local authority or provider to identify techniques appropriate to the secure children's home for which they have responsibility, taking into account the framework for the use of restraint set out in regulations and national minimum standards. Consequently, this fragmented picture means that the information on restraint in secure children's homes has not been as readily available to the chairs as evidence on restraint in secure training centres and young offender institutions.

It was to help the chairs close this evidence gap that the Department for Children, Schools and Families commissioned the National Children's Bureau to undertake thorough research on restraint in secure children's homes. This important research, which began in January, aims to provide, for the first time, a systematic map of restraint methods, systems and processes in secure children's homes. It will also help us to identify where there are remaining gaps in our knowledge. And it will look at the data to see if there is any evidence of harm to children and young people arising from these restraint methods.

The chairs have welcomed this research project and have been kept in touch with its early emerging findings. The main outcomes of the research, however, will not be available in time for the chairs to reflect its conclusions in their recommendations. Without this research, the chairs believe, the review may be a missed opportunity to examine restraint properly in all three secure settings and to make well-founded recommendations for its future regulation. Accordingly, the chairs wrote to my right hon. Friend and me on 28 February to propose that they should delay their report until 20 June to ensure that their report can reflect the results of the NCB research into secure children's homes. We have placed a copy of the chairs' letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Having considered the arguments carefully, my right hon. Friend and I have agreed with the chairs' request that they now defer their report to us until 20 June 2008 at the latest. We accept the chairs' view that to be complete their report must take the NCB research into account. The restraint of young people is a highly important issue and we believe that, on balance, it is better for the report to be deferred for a short period than for a premature or incomplete report to be submitted to the original deadline.

Although this puts back the chairs' submission of their report, my right hon. Friend and I have always been clear that the ongoing independent review would not prevent us taking urgent action on restraint where it is needed. In December 2007, my right hon. Friend and I, on medical advice, suspended two PCC restraint holds used by secure training centres, the Borders and Immigration Agency and in Northern Ireland. The Government will shortly be publishing its action plan to address issues raised by the Coroners of the inquests into the tragic deaths of Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood.

CABINET OFFICE

MPs' and Peers' Correspondence

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): I am today publishing a report on Departments' and Agencies' performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence during 2007. Details are set out in the attached table. Figures for 2006 were published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated.

The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1] — _2007_

Department or Agency	_Target set for reply (working days)_	_Number of letters received_	_Percentage of replies within target_
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform[2]	15	7,502	74
Companies House	10	54	100
Insolvency Service	10	311	98
Cabinet Office	15	485	88
Department for Communities and Local Government	15	11,018	61[3]
Planning Inspectorate	10	186	93
Crown Prosecution Service	15	422	99
Department for Children, Schools and Families[4]	15	16,383	92
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	20	5,449	77
Royal Parks Agency	20	17	94
Ministry of Defence	15	6,682[5]	48[6]
Met Office	10	24	83
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	15	645	98
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	14,068	73
Animal Health	15	61	94
Marine Fisheries Agency	15	33	96
Rural Payments Agency	15	645	40[7]
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	9,792	92
UK Visas	20	401	77
Department of Health	20	19,329	92
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	20	193	80*
	20	31	100**
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	20	12	80*
*Agency Ministerial cases			
**Letters sent directly to Agency Chief Executive, where Agency Chief Executives responded on behalf of Ministers			
Food Standards Agency			
*Letters where Health Ministers have replied	20	279*	72*
**Letters where Chief Executive/Chairman has replied	20	75**	95**
***DH Campaign letters[8]	20	142***	17***
Meat Hygiene Service	20	15	80
Home Office[9]	15	6,567	95
Criminal Records Bureau	10	505	95
Identity and Passport Service	10	934	90
Border and Immigration Agency[10]	20	43,178	82
HM Prison Service[11]	20	182	100
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills[12]	15	2,125	73
UK Intellectual Property Office	15	289	96
Department for International Development	15	3,888	78
Ministry of Justice[13]	20	4,777	90*
*Letters where Ministers have replied			
HM Courts Service	15	28	100**
Land Registry	20	134	97**
HM Prison Service[14]	20	320	99**
Public Guardianship Office[15]	15	94	96**
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	15	31	100**
Tribunals Service	10	1,969	99**
**Letters where Chief Executive/Director General* or officials have applied			
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	20	554	87
Northern Ireland Office	15	432	81
Compensation Agency	10	49	96
Northern Ireland Prison Service	10	69	59
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	475	94
HM Revenue and Customs*	15[16]	4,779	70
*Local Office and "delegated" figures (where local tax offices have replied directly to MPs)	15	1,197	63[17]
Scotland Office	15	95	77
Department for Transport	15	8,406	80
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	1,481	87
Driving Standards Agency	10	134	54[18]
Highways Agency	15	330	94
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	15	69	100
HM Treasury	15	6,385	84
National Savings and Investments	15	18	78
Office for National Statistics	15	201	90

Correspondence from MPs/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1] — *2007*

Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*Percentage of replies within target*
**Letters where the National Statistician replied on the Ministers' behalf*	10	161*	70
Valuation Office	18	26	73
Treasury Solicitor's Department	10	22	100
Wales Office	15	72	90
Department for Work and Pensions	20	10,379	92
Child Support Agency	15	6,650	92
Debt Management	15	69	100
Disability and Carers Service	15	416	91
Health and Safety Executive	15	259	85
Jobcentre Plus	15	1,727	90
The Pension Service	15	1,186	97
The Rent Service	15	12	100

[1] Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as Freedom of Information requests.

[2] As part of Machinery of Government changes, The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was formed from the Department of Trade and Industry on 28 June 2007. The statistics include correspondence handling figures from DTI up until 27 June 2007

[3] Communities and Local Government have improved performance substantially since 2006. Revision of their processes in February 2007 has led to continued improvement.

[4] As part of Machinery of Government changes, The Department for Children, Schools and Families was formed from the Department for Education and Skills on 28 June 2007. The statistics include correspondence handling figures from DFES up until 27 June 2007

[5] Database is unable to differentiate between letters from MPs/Peers and other correspondence, including FOI requests. Figures are therefore for all letters which received a ministerial reply.

[6] Drop in performance caused in part by technical difficulties following the implementation of a new handling system. Arrangements have been introduced to improve performance, which has been made a priority by the Secretary of State. The figure for December 2007 was 69 per cent.

[7] The percentage of replies within target has increased from 23% in 2006, and performance has steadily improved throughout the year. Many of the letters that the RPA responds to involve complex casework and these take time to resolve effectively.

[8] The campaign correspondence exclusively concerned regulations relating to the marketing of infant and follow-on formula and a delay resulting from finalisation of those regulations.

[9] As part of Machinery of Government changes, the Respect Task Force moved to the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 28 June 2007. The figures include performance of the Respect Task Force up to and including 27 June.

[10] Former Immigration and Nationality Directorate prior to 1 April 2007

[11] As part of Machinery of Government changes, the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) and the National Offender Management Service/HM Prison Service moved to the Ministry of Justice on 5 May 2007. The above figures include performance of the OCJR and the HM Prison Service up to and including 4 May.

[12] As part of Machinery of Government changes, The Department for Innovation, Universities and Science was formed from parts of the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Trade and Industry on 28 June 2007. Figures are for 28 June 2007 onwards.

[13] The Ministry of Justice was formed from the Department of Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office on 9 May 2007

[14] Part of the Home Office until 4 May 2007; figures for only 9 May - 31 December 2007

[15] Former Public Guardianship Office prior to 1 October 2007

[16] HMRC reduced response targets from 18 days to 15 days

[17] Performance significantly improved in the last quarter of 2007 when the average clearance time was reduced to less than 10 days.

[18] Drop in performance following changes in the way correspondence statistics are collected. The necessary measures have been implemented to improve performance.

Local Election Guidance

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): In line with established practice, guidance has today been issued to civil servants in UK Departments on the principles that they should observe in relation to the conduct of Government business in the run-up to the forthcoming elections to local authorities in England and Wales and to the Greater London authority, that are taking place on 1 May 2008.

The guidance sets out the principles on the need to maintain the political impartiality of the civil service, and the need to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes. The period of sensitivity preceding the local elections starts on 10 April.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http:/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/election_guidance.aspx

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

"Post-legislative Scrutiny - The Government's Approach"

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing "Post-legislative Scrutiny—The Government's Approach" (Cm 7320).

The new process for post-legislative scrutiny introduces a systematic approach for strengthening the scrutiny of laws after they have been enacted by Parliament. The aim is to complement the Government's internal departmental scrutiny with parliamentary scrutiny, principally by Committees of the House of Commons, to provide a 'reality check' of new laws after three to five years.

Copies of the document can be obtained from the Vote Office.

Our decisions were informed by the Law Commission report ("Post-legislative Scrutiny"—Cm 6945), published on 25 October 2006, following a request from the Government. We are most grateful to the Commission for its thoughtful and considered review.

TRANSPORT

Railways Act

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I have today laid before Parliament a policy statement on the exercise of my powers in relation to passenger rail franchising under section 26(1) of the Railways Act 1993. Amendments to that Act made by the Railways Act 2005, which transferred certain franchising functions of the Strategic Rail Authority to the Secretary of State, require me to publish a statement of policy about how I propose to exercise my powers under section 26(1).

The statement sets out how I intend to award rail franchises in future, which is by means of competitive tender wherever possible. The statement also sets out those circumstances in which it is likely that an invitation to tender will not be issued, and clarifies those circumstances where a franchise agreement may be extended.

Copies of the statement have been made available in the Libraries of the House.

Petitions

Monday 10 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Acton)

The Petition of East Acton Residents,

Declares that the Post Office in Old Oak Common Lane is an essential part of our community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to intervene in keeping our Post Office at 71 Old Oak Common Lane, W3, open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andy Slaughter, Official Report,* 19 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 322 .] [P000125]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million for Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London finishes on 2 April and Post Office Ltd announces decisions on 7 May. POL will publish their decisions regarding the London area in an area plan decision booklet which will be available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with three stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Newport)

The Petition of the sub-postmaster and supporters of Christchurch Road Post Office in Newport,

Declares that Christchurch Road Post Office continues to play a vital role in the local community by providing essential and convenient services; that to shut a profitable and busy Post Office is contrary to the proposed goal of the Post Office Ltd's network change programme; that the route to the alternative Post Office means walking down a very steep hill; which would have a detrimental effect on customers who are elderly or disabled who would be unable to access other Post Office services.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to save this vital Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jessica Morden, Official Report,* 7 February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 1217 .] [P000117]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million for the Social Network Payment to support the Post Office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Newport and Gwent Valleys finished on 25 February and Post Office Ltd will announce decisions on 18 March. POL will publish their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Newport and Gwent Valleys area, which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Wednesday 12 March 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Darfur Genocide

The Petition of Students from seven West Oxfordshire secondary schools; Bartholomew, Burford, Carterton, Chipping Norton, The Henry Box School, The Marlborough Schools and Wood Green,

Declares that genocide is taking place in Darfur, Sudan.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to move the issue of the Darfur genocide to the top of the political agenda and media spotlight, and to keep it there.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. [P000149]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (North Yorkshire)

The Humble Petition of Mr Derrick Jauncey of Save Linton on Ouse Post Office Action Group and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That they fear the proposed Post Office Network review will result in unacceptable numbers of Post Office closures. They wish to see their access to Post Offices across North Yorkshire to remain as wide as is currently the case and that there be no further cuts in postal services. They recognise that their Post Offices provide a vital service in a rural community to the most vulnerable, the elderly, the less mobile, and those with young families.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to reverse the Post Office's proposed Network Change Programme.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

—*[Presented by Miss Anne McIntosh, Official Report,* 7 February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 1218 .] [P000122]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision for £150 million of Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for North Yorkshire ended on 17 January last year. POL has announced their final decision and has decided to proceed with the proposed closure of this branch and its replacement with an Outreach service which will continue to offer post office services in the area. Post Office Ltd has published their decision in the Area Plan Booklet for the North Yorkshire area, which is available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved. After stage 3 the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petition

Thursday 13 March 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Ankylosing Spondylitis

The Petition of Gillian Eames,

Declares that anti-TNF treatments are vital for patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). Such treatments will add quality to the lives of thousands of AS patients and will allow many to take control of their treatment at home.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to approve two anti-TNF treatments for patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS); and calls to ensure that NICE guidance is implemented as quickly as possible so that these new treatments can be added to NHS services and treatments to improve the welfare of AS patients around the country.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Jacqui Lait.]* [P000150]

Petition

Friday 14 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Darfur Genocide

The Petition of Hannah Marshall, Elliott Ward and students of the Anglo European School and of the South East,

Declares that the children and young people of Britain are the future of this country and want a future without violence and unnecessary suffering, bred by inequality, believe that genocide in Darfur should be tackled more appropriately by the UK and other nations, and that this genocide should be more widely publicised, and further declares that there are over 20 million refugees in the world, many of whom are children or young people, like the petitioners, but many of whom do not have a family or even a country and need our help as their brothers and sisters.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons to urge the Government to take a more positive role in bringing attention to the Darfur genocide, in helping those refugees in need in Darfur, and in getting a solution to the political and security problems and giving appropriate aid so issues are dealt with in a sustainable manner.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 11 July 2007; Vol. 462, c. 1581.]*

[P000152]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The UK Government shares the petitioners' concerns about the situation in Darfur and utterly condemns the appalling acts of violence committed by all sides to the conflict. The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to bring lasting peace and security to Darfur and across Sudan.

The UK was instrumental in achieving the transfer of authority, on 31 December 2007, from the African Union (AU) force to the AU-UN Hybrid peacekeeping force (UNAMID) in Darfur. The mission is vital to restoring peace and stability and improving security for displaced persons. The UK sponsored and led work in New York last summer on the Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1769) that authorised the mission.

The international community must act together to resolve the crisis in Darfur. UK Ministers agreed on 21-22 February with the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa, Liu Guijin, the key objectives of accelerating UNAMID's deployment, re-energising the Darfur political process, and securing an end to the recent violence in West Darfur and Chad. I discussed these issues in Beijing on 28 February with my Chinese counterpart.

The Prime Minister and other UK Ministers, both in public and our dealings with the Government of Sudan and other interested countries, have repeatedly made it clear that Darfur is a high priority for the UK. The Prime Minister promised further development aid, dependent on progress on security, ceasefire, political process and humanitarian access. All sides must act or face the consequences.

Ultimately, sustainable peace and security in Darfur will only be achieved through a political process. We are urging all parties to cease hostilities and to engage fully in this process, which re-started on 27 October 2007 in Libya under AU-UN leadership. The UK supports this process by providing £1 million to the Mediation Support Team. Securing a sustainable peace deal for Darfur also requires effective consultation and engagement with civil society, including all ethnic groups. The UK is funding key positions within the mechanism for consulting civil society.

The UK is committing considerable resources to alleviate the immediate humanitarian crisis and will continue to push for full humanitarian access for non-Government organisations operating in Darfur. We are the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor, having contributed over £290 million in humanitarian assistance to Sudan (£158 million to Darfur) since April 2004.

Addressing Darfur's immediate recovery and long-term reconstruction needs is equally important. On 28 October 2007, the UK announced a contribution of £5 million to the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund, which is intended to support peace by providing services and promoting reconciliation at community level where the security situation permits and where local leaders commit to political dialogue.

There can be no impunity for the terrible crimes committed in Darfur. In March 2005, the UK sponsored UNSCR 1593 which referred Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We call on the Government of Sudan to co-operate unconditionally with the ICC and surrender the two individuals for whom the ICC issued arrest warrants in connection with alleged atrocities in Darfur. The ICC has our full support for its activities. I raised this in my meeting with ICC President Philippe Kirsch on 8 November 2007. Lord Malloch-Brown raised it with the Government of Sudan during his visit to Khartoum in January.

The UK remains committed to a peaceful and prosperous Sudan. We will continue to play a leading role in international efforts to support work towards a peaceful future for Darfur.

Petition

Monday 17 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Queen Mary's Hospital (Sidcup)

The Petition of residents of the London Borough of Bexley and others, to save our services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup,

Declares the Petitioners great concern at the proposal of NHS London to close the Accident & Emergency and Maternity departments at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup and that they believe these measures to be financially driven by factors at other hospitals in the region rather than the clinical excellence and cost-effectiveness of the services provided at this much valued local hospital.

The Petitioners further declare that the Maternity department has gained the highest clinical assessment in the region and that neighbouring hospitals refer to Sidcup because of lack of capacity and patient choice.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to use his powers to reverse the proposed reduction in much needed and highly valued hospital services in Bexley.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Derek Conway, Official Report, 26 February 2008;* Vol. 472, c. 24P .] [P000135]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 March 2008

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Durban II

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on which UK non-governmental organisations are *(a)* participating and *(b)* planning to participate in the Durban II process. [191576]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has maintained informal contacts with a number of organisations expressing an interest in the conference. The list of non-governmental organisations that attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference from 27 to 31 August 2007 is set out in its report, available at:

http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc

Iraq: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 846W, on Iraq: international assistance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the three latest reports by the Iraq Compact Secretariat on progress made towards meeting Compact Goals. [192242]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The International Compact for Iraq (ICI) published their first mid-year progress report in July 2007. This was followed by a joint ICI/United Nations update in September 2007. A copy of these reports will be placed in the Library of the House. Their next progress report is due in April.

SCOTLAND

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193394]

David Cairns: As at 25 February 2008, the Scotland Office had two written questions which had not received an answer for between two and four weeks. These were both ordinary written questions.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were from 13 January to 24 February. [190445]

Des Browne: The information is as follows:

Throughout the period 13 January to 24 February, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office.

In addition, on 14 January, I had a meeting with the mother of an injured soldier.

15 January, I met representatives of the Mull of Kintyre Group, spoke by telephone with the US Secretary of Defence and had dinner with Lord Glenarthur.

16 January, I attended a Veterans Day event for MPs in the House of Commons.

17 January, I met representatives of the Royal British Legion and gave evidence to the Quadripartite Committee of the House of Commons.

21 January, I answered Defence questions in the House of Commons and gave an oral statement to the House on the theft of a laptop containing personal information relating to service personnel.

22 January, I had meetings with the wife of a deceased solider and her local MP, the Macedonian Defence Minister and the Turkish Chief of Defence and I attended the opening of the 'Scots in Quebec' exhibition at Canada House.

23 January, I answered Scottish questions in the House of Commons.

24 January, I met Baroness Nicholson to discuss the situation in Iraq, attended receptions for UK4UTHANKS and SSAFA and spoke by telephone with the Danish Defence Minister.

25 January, I visited 51 Brigade in Scotland, met the First Minister of Scotland, and visited the Solve It project in Falkirk and the Glasgow Works project.

28 January, I met representatives of Shell UK, hosted a lunch in the Ministry of Defence with nine injured service personnel and subsequently gave a speech to the Senior Defence and Diplomatic Service Conference.

29 January, I gave evidence to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee on Devolution and met MPs from the Glasgow area to discuss our plans for the future aircraft carriers.

30 January, I met Michael Wareing, the UK's representative on the Basra Development Commission, and attended an EDS Defence Ltd reception at RUSI.

31 January, I visited injured service personnel in Headley Court and paid a visit to Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, following which I had a video-telephone conference with the NATO Secretary General.

5 February, I gave a speech at a nuclear disarmament conference in Geneva and subsequently had a meeting with the Polish Chief of Defence.

6 February, I had lunch with a representative of the media.

7 to 8 February, I attended the NATO Defence ministerial meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania. On 11 February, I visited Babcocks Marine at Rosyth Dockyard.

12 February, I addressed the Higher Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham and had dinner with Ambassador Daithi O'Ceallaigh, Irish ambassador to the UN.

13 February, I had lunch with Ambassador David Cooney, the Irish ambassador to the UK, as well as meetings with Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, the Iraqi National Security Adviser and Sir David Richards, chairman of the Premier League.

15 February, I visited Thales Optronics in Glasgow to announce the award of a contract for the surveillance system and range finder.

16 February, I attended a presentation for veterans in Glasgow.

19 February, I had lunch with representatives of the media, and then a meeting followed by dinner with the families of deceased service personnel.

21 to 22 February, I attended the EU Defence ministerial meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Press Gallery

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was paid by the House in subsidy to the Press Gallery *(a)* bar, *(b)* cafeteria and *(c)* restaurant in the last 12 months for which information is available; what rental was paid by the Press Gallery for its accommodation in the House over the same period; and what charges are made to the Gallery or its members for the use of telephones. [192621]

Nick Harvey: The total subsidy (the difference between income and costs) in the Press catering outlets in 2006-07 was £201,100. Separate figures for each outlet are not available. No rental is paid by the Gallery, nor are charges made to its members for the use of telephones for calls within London.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many plasma television screens have been purchased by the House, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191070]

Nick Harvey: Two 42 inch plasma screens have been purchased in the last 24 months for use in the Commons Chamber at a cost of £3,400.

Visitor Reception Building

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what date the visitors reception building is expected to open; when the building was expected to open at the outset of the project; what the reasons are for the delay and if he will make a statement. [192534]

Nick Harvey: The date for full opening of the building will be fixed after trials to test the technical equipment and the handling of visitors have been completed. Some trials have already occurred, and more are taking place at present. The project was originally planned on the basis of an opening date of autumn 2006 but delays were caused by unexpected problems with piling work and with services buried beneath the site, and later by difficulties with the construction of the building itself.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what progress has been made in appointing a permanent secretary for the Government Equalities Office. [184390]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: I am pleased to announce that Jonathan Rees has been appointed as director-general in charge of the Government Equalities Office, and took up his new position on 25 February. He will also be the GEO's accounting officer.

There are no plans to appoint a permanent secretary as well.

Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many receptions she has hosted and funded in her capacity as Minister for Women and Equality; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [190804]

Barbara Follett: Since 28 June 2007, I have hosted three receptions and co-hosted two. The details are as follows, in date order:

Black History Month 29 October 2007

This event marked Black History Month and encouraged Black, Asian and ethnic minority women to become local councillors, as they are under represented. It was attended by approximately 150 people in the House of Commons. The cost of this event was £4,414.06.

2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities 13 December 2007

This event marked the completion of the '2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All' in the UK. Over 200 people were invited to the House of Commons including those who participated in case studies on equality and diversity issues. The event cost £12,285.63, half of which was paid for by the European Commission. The cost to the Government's Equalities Office was £6,143.

Equality Commissioners Event 29 January 2008

This event marked the contribution made by the outgoing Commissioners of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Commission for Racial Equality and Disability Rights Commission, and provided the opportunity for representatives of organisations involved in equalities issues to meet the Commissioners of the new Equality and Human Rights Commission. Approximately 200 people attended including organisations and parliamentarians with an interest in equality issues. The event was organised with and co-funded by the Government Equalities Office, Department for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government Department and the total cost of the reception was £3,970. The Government's Equalities Office contribution was £1,323.

Marking the 90th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage 6 February 2008

This event marked the 90th Anniversary of women's suffrage at Lancaster House. It was co-hosted by the Government Equalities Office and the Fawcett Society. It was attended by approximately 200 people. The Government's Equalities Office contribution for this event was £2,132.

Trade Union Women 18 February 2008

This event marked the work of trade union women and equality representatives to advance equality issues in the workplace. The event was attended by 120 people. The cost of the reception was £2,448.70.

Lists of those invited to these events and those who attended will be placed in the Commons Library. This will be subject to data protection requirements.

All figures are inclusive of VAT.

WALES

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192220]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193431]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192066]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192109]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continues to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many written Questions to his Department had not received an Answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193385]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Devolution

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly government on cross-border issues; and if he will make a statement. [192015]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular meetings with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly government when we use the opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including the delivery of services between Wales and England in cross-border areas.

It is important that both the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly government work in partnership to ensure that the highest standard of services are delivered to people on both sides of the border. I welcome the inquiry by the Welsh Affairs Committee into the provision of cross-border public services for Wales.

Iron and Steel

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly government on the future of the steel industry in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [192086]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial and Welsh Assembly government colleagues on matters of importance to Wales, including the steel industry.

Tata Steel's announcement of a £9 million investment at its Morfa coke facilities, coupled with the company's earlier commitment to invest £60 million in energy management technology at Port Talbot is a huge vote of confidence in Welsh steel-making. These investments demonstrate the confidence business places in the future of steel making in Wales.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191479]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Gentleman to Annex D3 in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review" (Cm 7227).

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements her Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to audit of data and IT equipment. [176649]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Contractors are used by the Department's internal audit group and by line management to assist in the audit of data and IT equipment. Contractors typically have specialist skills relevant to the performance of audits.

The extent to which contractors are employed varies between the Department and its agencies, and the nature of requirements will vary according to the needs of specific situations.

The Department's internal audit group has had arrangements with various contract partners to provide specialist data and IT audit resources where these are required. Individuals are appropriately qualified and are vetted to an appropriate level.

Contractors employed by DfT management to perform penetration testing must be CESG CLAS or part of the CHECK scheme. Agencies also include HSE and ISO/BS technical criteria requirements as appropriate for the contracted tasks.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what minimum demonstrable security standards are required by her Department and its agencies of a company before it is permitted to carry out an audit of data security processes. [176939]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's internal audit group has contractual arrangements with third party partners who are able to provide technical expertise to assist with data security audits. These partners are typically either recognised national or international auditing firms or smaller specialist auditing practices. The individuals from these firms who assist the Department's internal audit group will be bound by their respective professional standards, typically as a member of a recognised accountancy or auditing body.

Before performing work for the Department's internal audit group, individuals will be subject to the same security checks and procedures as new recruits into the civil service.

Individuals from other organisations employed by the Department's line management to perform audits and other checks are required to meet Government vetting standards.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192384]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Prime Minister sets the criteria for cars for use by Ministers. Currently, Cabinet Ministers may choose either a diesel powered Jaguar XJ or a Toyota Prius hybrid. Other Ministers may also choose from a Toyota Prius, a Honda Civic hybrid or any other suitable car with a CO_2 emission of 185 g/km or less.

Departmental Regulatory Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulatory impact assessments her Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the 12 months to 31 January 2008 the Department undertook 51 consultations that were accompanied by regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) or impact assessments (IAs).

A final RIA was laid in Parliament with the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007. Final RIAs or IAs were laid with 40 pieces of Secondary Legislation.

We publish final RIAs and IAs on our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/aboutria/

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the motorcycle driving test in other EU member states to driving a motorcycle on UK roads. [192907]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All EU member states are subject to European standards concerning training and testing persons who wish to obtain a licence to ride a motorcycle.

First Great Western

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent reports she has received on the standard of First Great Western services between Oxford and London; [178314]

(2) what steps she has taken to ensure that First Great Western complies with the terms of its franchise on commuter services between Oxford and London; [178315]

(3) what progress her Department has made in its discussions with First Great Western on standards of service on their Thames Valley commuter services. [178316]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* I refer my right hon. Friend to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-74WS.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Contracts

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value is of the vehicle leasing contracts held between the Government Car and Despatch Agency and Government Departments in the last year for which figures are available. [192857]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1348-49W.

Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-74WS, on First Great Western franchise, how many extra carriages for the Portsmouth to Cardiff line will be provided; from where these will be sourced; and by what date. [190605]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: 10 additional carriages will be provided, comprising five two-carriage class 150 trains from Arriva Trains Wales from May 2008.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the performance of First Great Western in meeting its existing rail franchise obligations and targets; and if she will make a statement. [177831]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-74WS.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress is being made towards the introduction of single-line working during engineering work on the railway; [193035]

(2) what steps are being taken to achieve a year-round seven-day railway service; and what timescale is being applied to these steps. [193037]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London. NW1 2EE.

Rolling Stock: Brighton

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure provision of extra diesel rolling-stock on the Brighton-Ashford line during the current franchise period. [193036]

Mr. Tom Harris: All train operating companies, including Southern, are obliged to use their best endeavours to match available rolling stock to accommodate passenger demand.

Train Operating Companies: Franchises

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the franchise payment profile for *(a)* Arriva Trains Wales, *(b)* c2c, *(c)* Chiltern Railways, *(d)* Cross Country, *(e)* East Midlands Trains, *(f)* First ScotRail, *(g)* First TransPennine Express, *(h)* Gatwick Express, *(i)* London Midland, *(j)* London Overground and *(k)* Merseyrail; [191580]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the franchise payment profile for *(a)* National Express East Coast, *(b)* Northern Rail, *(c)* One, *(d)* Southeastern, *(e)* Southern Trains, *(f)* South West Trains and *(g)* Virgin Trains. [191581]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 March 2008]*: I have placed a copy of the subsidy and premium profiles for all current franchises that are the responsibility of the Department for Transport in the Library of the House. Details of London Overground, Merseyrail and First Scotrail are not shown as these operators are managed by Transport for London, Merseytravel and Transport Scotland respectively. The subsidy profile for Arriva Trains Wales only shows the Department for Transport's commitment, the bulk of this franchise being the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which wind farm proposals her Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191114]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not objected to any offshore wind farm development proposals.

Any potential navigational safety issues have been addressed either in discussion between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (who are statutory consultees in the developmental approval process) and the developers, or by the inclusion of appropriate conditional consents in the decision letter.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place with local mobile telephone companies in Afghanistan on jamming telecommunication networks. [191128]

Des Browne: I am unaware of any discussions between local mobile telephone companies in Afghanistan and members of the UK armed forces on jamming telecommunications networks.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for compensation were *(a)* made and *(b)* successful from service personnel who were injured in armed combat in each of the last five years; and what the average length of time taken was for any payment to be made. [192156]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Information on service personnel who have been injured in armed combat and subsequently made a claim for compensation could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single living accommodation units for service personnel are of standard *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 in (i) the UK and (ii) in each home nation. [184383]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The standard of single living accommodation (SLA) is measured by Grade for Charge (GfC) an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation, together with other factors such as location and closeness to amenities. SLA bed-spaces broken down by GfC and home nation are shown in the table as follows:

Home nation	*Grade 1*	*Grade 2*	*Grade 3*	*Grade 4*	*Total*
England	31,848	14,375	20,076	56,196	122,495
Scotland	2,553	1,576	1,691	2,128	7,948
Northern Ireland	248	588	1,424	2,396	4,656
Wales	739	859	155	1,492	3,245
Total	35,388	17,398	23,346	62,212	138,344

Over the next decade the MOD will spend over £8 billion on accommodation, including some £3.1 billion on bringing accommodation up to the top condition. This will include the delivery of some 30,000 new or improved SLA bedspaces by 2013.

Armed Forces: Inheritance Tax

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if, after consultation with HM Revenue and Customs, he will seek the help of ex-service associations in making known to the executors and heirs of armed forces members, whose death may have been brought forward by injury in qualifying circumstances, how to obtain relief from inheritance taxes. [191906]

Derek Twigg: There is no automatic exemption for veterans from inheritance tax, but information on exemptions, under S154 of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984, is available to executors, the next of kin or the veterans themselves, in booklets provided by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), and through the SPVA helpline. A short article on the exemption was also included in the most recent edition of the Veterans World Newspaper (issue 9: winter 2008), which is distributed to civilian and service organisations that assist the public and service community. I am aware that the War and Service Widows Associations and SAGA, Help the Aged, and mainstream newspapers have run articles on this exemption in the recent past. Advice is also contained in the Community Legal Service Direct Information Leaflet 25 (Rights for Former Servicemen and there Women and their Families), which is available from a variety of sources.

Officials are also writing to the Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations in order to further highlight the exemption.

Bradley and Others *v.* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the implications are of judgment in Bradley and Others *v.* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the treatment of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration's findings for his response to the Debt of Honour report; and if he will make a statement. [191992]

Derek Twigg: In the light of further work undertaken following the publication by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman of her report on the Government's ex-gratia payment scheme for former far east prisoners of war and civilian internees, the Ministry of Defence accepted in full her recommendations. On that basis, the Department does not consider that this judgment has any implications for its response.

Departmental Data Protection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 21 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1225, on MOD (data loss), how many of the 600,000 individuals who registered an interest in an armed forces career whose details were on recently stolen Ministry of Defence laptop computers subsequently joined the armed forces. [182360]

Des Browne: Early analysis of the details held on the stolen MOD laptop computer indicated that some 63,000 individuals either subsequently went on to serve in the armed forces (but have since left) or are currently serving. A more precise figure would require a comprehensive cross-check with data-sets held on our main Joint Personnel Administration System. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190676]

Derek Twigg: The conclusions we have reached can be found in our annual progress report which will be published in April 2008. The report will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the Ministry of Defence website.

Departmental Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187751]

Derek Twigg: There is an agreement in place with Eurostar for discounted fares for duty travel originating in the UK. The 2007 expenditure under this agreement was:

	Number
Business class tickets	329,349
Other class tickets	65,390

These figures do not include any bookings made through the normal Eurostar reservations using a Government Procurement Card, for which figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mean cost was to his Department of employment of one member of staff in each of the last 10 years. [189603]

Derek Twigg: We estimate the average cost of employment as follows:

	Average cost[1] (£)
1997-98	20,000
1998-99	20,000
1999-2000	21,000
2000-01	22,000
2001-02	23,000
2002-03	24,000
2003-04	25,000
2004-05	26,000
2005-06	28,000
2006-07	30,000

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187525]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1620W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was allocated by his Department to services for members of the armed services who had been invalided out of the service in each year since 2003, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* regiment, *(c)* service and *(d)* age cohort of recipient. [190803]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of *(a)* meningitis, *(b)* food poisoning, *(c)* pneumonia and *(d)* gastroenteritis there have been among members of the armed services serving in Iraq since 2003, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) regiment. [190879]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 335W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, how many requests from Iraqi authorities have been received by British forces to re-intervene in *(a)* Muthanna, *(b)* Dhi Qar and *(c)* Basra provinces since the handover of security responsibility to the Iraqis in these provinces. [192241]

Des Browne: UK Forces have not received any requests from the Iraqi authorities to re-intervene in Muthanna, Dhi Qar or Basra since the handover of security responsibility to the Iraqis in these provinces. However, we have provided specialist support to operations led by the Iraqi security forces on a number of occasions.

NATO: Ballistic Missile Defence

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects a new agreement at the forthcoming NATO conference in Bucharest *(a)* to seek to integrate the US Missile Defense system and NATO's European theatre missile defence system and *(b)* enable NATO to share authority for the current US Missile Defense system. [193135]

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[1] The average cost has been calculated using (i) the number of full-time equivalent civilian employees, excluding those in Trading Funds (which lie outside the departmental accounting boundary) and (ii) the expenditure recorded in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts for financial years 2001-02 onwards. The figures represent the cost of salary and wages, overtime, social security costs, pension costs and redundancy and severance payments. Information for the financial years before 2001-02 has been derived from an analysis of the Appropriation Accounts which reflects a different and not directly comparable accounting regime from resource accounting.

Des Browne: Ballistic missile defence (BMD) is an important issue for NATO and it will be discussed at the Bucharest summit. Further work is required to assess the political and military implications of BMD on the alliance; it is too early to judge the outcome of this work.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were between 13 January and 24 February 2008. [190451]

Des Browne: The information is as follows:

Throughout the period 13 January to 24 February, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office.

In addition, on 14 January, I had a meeting with the mother of an injured soldier.

15 January, I met representatives of the Mull of Kintyre Group, spoke by telephone with the US Secretary of Defense and had dinner with Lord Glenarthur.

16 January, I attended a Veterans Day event for MPs in the House of Commons.

17 January, I met representatives of the Royal British Legion and gave evidence to the Quadripartite Committee of the House of Commons.

21 January, I answered Defence questions in the House of Commons and gave an oral statement to the House on the theft of a laptop containing personal information relating to service personnel.

22 January, I had meetings with the wife of a deceased soldier and her local MP, the Macedonian Defence Minister and the Turkish Chief of Defence and I attended the opening of the "Scots in Quebec" Exhibition at Canada House.

23 January, I answered Scottish questions in the House of Commons.

24 January, I met Baroness Nicholson to discuss the situation in Iraq, attended receptions for UK4UTHANKS and SSAFA and spoke by telephone with the Danish Defence Minister.

25 January, I visited 51 Brigade in Scotland, met the First Minister of Scotland, and visited the Solve It Project in Falkirk and the Glasgow Works Project.

28 January, I met representatives of Shell UK, hosted a lunch in the Ministry of Defence with nine injured service personnel and subsequently gave a speech to the Senior Defence and Diplomatic Service Conference.

29 January, I gave evidence to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee on Devolution and met MPs from the Glasgow area to discuss our plans for the future aircraft carriers.

30 January, I met Michael Wareing, the UK's representative on the Basra Development Commission, and attended an EDS Defence Ltd. reception at RUSI.

31 January, I visited injured service personnel in Headley Court and paid a visit to Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, following which I had a video-telephone conference with the NATO Secretary-General.

5 February, I gave a speech at a Nuclear Disarmament Conference in Geneva and subsequently had a meeting with the Polish Chief of Defence.

6 February, I had lunch with a representative of the media.

7-8 February, I attended the NATO Defence Ministerial meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania.

11 February, I visited Babcocks Marine at Rosyth Dockyard.

12 February, I addressed the Higher Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham and had dinner with Ambassador Daithi O'Ceallaigh, Irish ambassador to the UN.

13 February, I had lunch with Ambassador David Cooney, the Irish ambassador to the UK, as well as meetings with Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, the Iraqi National Security Adviser and Sir David Richards, Chairman of the Premier League.

15 February, I visited Thales Optronics in Glasgow to announce the award of a contract for the Surveillance System and Range Finder.

16 February, I attended a presentation for veterans in Glasgow.

19 February, I had lunch with representatives of the media, and then a meeting followed by dinner with the families of deceased Service personnel.

21-22 February, I attended the EU Defence Ministerial meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

RM Condor

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 889-90W, on RM Condor, for what reasons each unit of single accommodation at RM Condor in condition grades 3 and 4 has been given that grading. [183573]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: All single living accommodation (SLA) at RM Condor has been subject to a Grading Review in accordance with this Department's 4-Tier Grading system, which provides the means of determining accommodation charges for differing standards of SLA. In this system, Grade 1 for Charge (G1fC) is the highest and G4fC the lowest. The grading system assesses 14 different criteria relating to accommodation such as condition (including decoration), scaling, provision of local amenities and environmental factors. All the different factors are taken into account, and when targets are not met a graduated number of points are deducted from the overall score. The more deductions there are, the lower the grade allocated to the SLA.

Of the 1,021 SLA bed-spaces at RM Condor, 383 have been assessed at being G1fC, 566 are at G3fC and 72 at G4fC. SLA bedspaces at RM Condor, while not new, are generally in a reasonable standard of condition and the main reasons for the number of G3fC and G4fC bedspaces is due to either Scaling (e.g. size of rooms) or Location (e.g. proximity to local amenities). Given the number of bed-spaces assessed as G3fC and G4fC, details of individual assessments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176010]

Mr. Timms: A small number of departmental staff are attached to UK embassies and high commissions in certain countries. Their main task is to collect information for claims to certain UK benefits and carry out related duties on behalf of the Department. They will, in the course of their work, hold some personal data for some individuals.

Other than this no significant personal data in respect of customers or employees, for which the Department is responsible, are processed or stored overseas.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185355]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, (Mrs. McGuire) gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1420W.

Hacking

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the use of a hacking tool or other malicious software enabling departmental information to be *(a)* retrieved and *(b)* manipulated by a third party has been detected on a (i) network, (ii) computer or (iii) database within his Department's responsibilities. [190339]

Mr. Timms: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks, and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Lone Parents: Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance and information his Department provides to lone parents on tax credit entitlement in the second year after returning to work. [190312]

Mr. Timms: Jobcentre Plus personal advisers give general advice about tax credits to lone parents who are considering work. They can also provide tax credit helpline telephone numbers and assist in the completion of tax credit forms.

Personal advisers can also conduct a 'Better Off Calculation' which provides written information for the customer including advice about in-work benefits, housing and council tax benefits, the job grant and free school meals, to enable customers to make an informed decision about entering work. Part of this calculation can include an estimate only of tax credit entitlement, based on the information that the customer provides. If the customer is able to provide a prediction of income and circumstances for their hypothetical second year of work, a 'Better off Calculation' could be conducted using this information.

Material Handling Equipment: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incidents there were involving tower cranes toppling in each of the last five years; and in each case how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries resulted. [193136]

Mrs. McGuire: Reports made to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), include a wider range of issues than incidents purely relating to toppling (i.e. collapsing) tower cranes, because they fall within the broader category of "failure, collapse or overturning of lifting machinery, excavator, pile driving, or Mobile Elevated Working Platform." Similar difficulties arise with injury reports.

Accordingly, the figures for collapsing tower cranes are based on the best available data held by HSE's Construction Division, rather than wider RIDDOR information. The number of incidents includes Dangerous Occurrences; fatal accidents to workers and members of the public; and major injuries to workers.

Information is not available for 2002-03, but from 2003-04 to 2006-07 there have been 32 incidents involving tower cranes collapsing. A breakdown of these, showing the number of deaths (five) and major injuries (six) is given in the following table. (Figures for 2006-07 are provisional.)

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of incidents involving tower crane collapses*	*Number of deaths*	*Number of major injuries*
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	6	0	2
2004-05	3	2	3
2005-06	11	0	0
2006-07 (provisional)	12	3	1

n/a = No information available

National Insurance: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place in his Department to identify inappropriate searches of the national insurance number database. [189292]

Mr. Timms: Departmental employees are required to observe the Department's standards of behaviour policy which makes clear that they may only access information where they have a business reason to do so. Employees are advised of these rules on appointment, and regularly reminded of their responsibilities. The Department takes very seriously its statutory obligations in relation to personal data, and takes disciplinary action where employee behaviour falls short of the expected standards.

The Department's customer information system (CIS) is the database that records personal details for everyone with a national insurance number. Access to CIS by departmental users is strictly controlled, and based on business need and particular user roles.

Specific mechanisms to identify inappropriate searches include random and targeted system-generated management checks, and electronic audit trails which are routinely applied in order to identify inappropriate use.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants have taken part in the *(a)* New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 Plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 Plus, *(d)* New Deal for Lone Parents, *(e)* New Deal for Disabled People and *(f)* New Deal for Partners in each month since each such programme was established. [190579]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

New deal participants (cumulative)

Month	*New deal for young people*	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal 50 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal for partners*	*New deal for disabled people*
1998						
July	102,490	—	—	—	—	—
August	112,800	—	—	—	—	—
September	120,060	—	—	—	—	—
October	126,100	—	—	—	—	—
November	129,950	—	—	10,820	—	—
December	133,140	—	—	13,070	—	—
1999						
January	138,510	—	—	19,390	—	—
February	141,780	—	—	27,240	—	—
March	144,550	—	—	35,560	—	—
April	145,580		—	39,990	—	—
May	145,750	—	—	42,490	—	—
June	144,440	—	—	43,680	—	—
July	146,020	—	—	45,350	—	—
August	143,590	—	—	46,350	—	—
September	138,090	—	—	50,220	—	—
October	131,400	—	—	54,770	—	—
November	126,840	—	—	56,200	—	—
December	127,740	—	—	51,650	—	—
2000						
January	129,520	—	—	53,230	—	—
February	128,780	—	—	56,700	—	—
March	128,410	—	—	60,410	—	—
April	127,150	—	—	61,750	—	—
May	126,170	—	—	62,800	—	—
June	122,610	—	—	63,450	—	—
July	122,050	—	—	63,430	—	—
August	119,420	—	—	62,820	—	—
September	111,480	—	—	65,580	—	—
October	106,500	—	—	65,930	—	—
November	103,160	—	—	64,530	—	—
December	103,890	—	—	60,670	—	—
2001						
January	105,900	—	—	61,580	—	—
February	104,750	—	—	62,570	—	—
March	103,630	1,550	—	63,390	—	—
April	103,040	10,580	—	61,760	—	—
May	102,400	18,940	—	60,890	—	—

New deal participants (cumulative)

Month	*New deal for young people*	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal 50 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal for partners*	*New deal for disabled people*
June	99,640	27,520	—	60,670	—	—
July	100,310	33,610	—	60,460	—	1,530
August	98,030	40,660	—	60,530	—	2,880
September	94,830	45,230	—	62,130	—	3,810
October	91,710	48,870	—	60,480	—	4,830
November	89,520	53.330	—	61.220	—	6.570
December	90,650	56,420	—	59,250	—	7,410
2002						
January	92,560	57,550	—	61,790	—	8,800
February	94,480	57,870	—	65,100	—	10,680
March	96,290	58,220	—	68,930	—	13,080
April	97,290	58,430	—	69,760	—	15,320
May	98,230	59,100	—	72,920	—	18,190
June	96,520	59,020	—	74,670	—	20,010
July	97,860	59,020	—	76,100	—	22,250
August	96,240	58,990	—	76,350	—	24,770
September	92,650	58,240	—	81,450	—	27,120
October	90,080	62,080	—	82,430	—	29,500
November	87,680	64,510	—	81,460	—	32,070
December	89,020	65,880	—	77,450	—	32,960
2003						
January	92,620	65,960	—	79,070	—	34,950
February	93,040	65,310	—	80,720	—	37,250
March	94,620	64,390	—	81,830	—	39,550
April	94,610	64,410	—	82,170	—	41,110
May	95,340	64,220	—	82,600	—	42,890
June	94,560	63,160	—	84,250	—	45,010
July	96,620	62,160	—	84,550	—	47,260
August	95,910	61,270	—	84,700	—	49,300
September	92,880	60,160	—	88,170	—	51,630
October	89,210	59,110	—	90,300	—	53,980
November	87,580	58,150	—	89,900	—	55,440
December	88,460	58,150	—	85,800	—	56,100
2004						
January	90,750	57,350	4,040	86,960	—	57,960
February	90,590	56,620	7,140	89,030	—	60,140
March	90,980	55,560	10,580	89,890	—	62,540
April	90,620	54,910	13,100	88,720	90	65,450
May	90,260	54,850	15,460	87,610	320	68,680
June	88,100	54,570	17,730	85,610	470	71,630
July	88,170	54,610	20,620	82,540	680	75,870
August	86,820	55,440	23,140	80,300	840	78,840
September	83,160	55,210	25,390	80,260	1,010	82,140
October	79,210	54,810	28,520	80,940	1,240	85,930
November	78,020	54,910	30,520	79,160	1,440	88,680
December	79,150	55,850	32,360	72,580	1,530	89,820
2005						
January	80,950	55,730	34,180	73,900	1,680	92,310
February	81,870	55,820	36,200	74,520	1,840	95,480
March	82,990	55,200	37,950	73,930	2,010	98,210
April	84,380	54,270	39,880	72,900	2,210	101,720
May	85,240	53,810	41,390	70,620	2,310	104,240
June	83,960	53,310	42,660	68,630	2,400	106,440
July	86,610	52,160	44,290	66,980	2,490	109,570
August	87,169	51,600	45,460	65,680	2,480	112,330
September	84,600	50,350	46,840	68,230	2,580	116,210
October	82,860	49,420	47,950	68,250	2,610	119,380
November	82,180	48,930	49,280	67,210	2,650	122,450

New deal participants (cumulative)

Month	*New deal for young people*	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal 50 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal for partners*	*New deal for disabled people*
December	84,360	49,260	50,350	62,570	2,650	123,720
2006						
January	87,750	49,070	51,300	63,340	2,690	126,920
February	89,420	49,270	52,150	64,470	2,790	130,840
March	92,780	49,190	53,150	63,990	2,930	134,990
April	94,570	49,250	53,680	61,420	2,990	138,080
May	96,760	49,790	54,510	59,290	3,050	141,160
June	96,090	50,070	55,280	57,870	3,090	144,570
July	98,400	50,480	55,880	55,880	3,120	148,050
August	98,320	51,350	56,350	54,090	3,170	152,080
September	93,830	51,830	56,900	54,100	3,230	157,150
October	90,970	53,130	57,190	53,560	3,290	161,210
November	89,040	54,580	57,610	52,970	3,340	164,730
December	89,930	56,990	57,870	50,290	3,420	167,050
2007						
January	92,850	58,190	58,400	53,010	3,490	171,300
February	92,520	59,290	58,900	57,640	3,620	175,270
March	93,350	59,760	59,240	60,950	3,750	179,840
April	91,570	59,990	59,460	61,350	3,790	183,270
May	90,120	60,340	59,490	64,410	3,820	186,170

Notes:

1. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: April 1998 (piloted from January 1998); New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal for Partners: April 1999; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.

2. Participant information for each new deal is only available from the dates given in the table.

3. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate

Winter Fuel Payments: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Castle Point constituency received winter fuel payments in each of the last three years. [191230]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the number of people who received a winter fuel payment in the Castle Point constituency in each of the last three years. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for winter 2006-07.

Castle Point constituency

	Payments made
2004-05	20,020
2005-06	20,500
2006-07	21,140

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Apprentices

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* women, *(b)* black and minority ethnic people and *(c)* people with disabilities in apprenticeships, broken down by business sector; [191366]

(2) which sectors of UK business provide the largest number of apprenticeships. [191402]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Overall there were 184,300 apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships starts in 2006-07 in England. Table 1 shows how this splits by sector subject area. Further breakdowns of the sector numbers by gender, ethnicity and disability are not readily available, but table 2 splits the overall number of starts by these three dimensions.

Table 1: Starts by programme type and sector subject area: 2006-07

Sector subject area	*Apprenticeship*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Total*
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	34,900	8,100	43,000
Business, Administration and Law	26,200	10,200	36,400
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	17,600	17,100	34,600
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	20,600	6,900	27,500
Health, Public Services and Care	15,200	8,400	23,690
Information and Communication Technology	4,300	2,100	6,400

Table 1: Starts by programme type and sector subject area: 2006-07

Sector subject area	*Apprenticeship*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Total*
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	3,700	1,900	5,600
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	3,000	900	3,900
NVQ not started	1,700	1,100	2,800
Arts, Media and Publishing	100	200	200
Education and Training	100	0	100
Unknown	100	0	100
Total	127,400	56,900	184,300

Note:
Numbers rounded to the nearest 100
Source:
Learning and Skills Council.

Table 2: Starts by programme type and gender, ethnicity and disability: 2006-07

	Apprenticeship	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Total*
Total	127,400	56,900	184,300
Gender			
Female	60,700	23,700	84,400
Male	66,700	33,200	99,900
Ethnicity			
Any other	600	200	800
Asian or Asian British—any other Asian background	300	100	400
Asian or Asian British—Bangladeshi	1,200	100	1,300
Asian or Asian British—Indian	900	400	1,200
Asian or Asian British—Pakistani	1,200	400	1,600
Black or black British—African	500	200	600
Black or black British—any other black background	400	100	500
Black or black British—Caribbean	1,000	400	1,300
Chinese	100	0	100
Mixed—any other mixed background	500	200	700
Mixed—white and Asian	300	100	400
Mixed—white and black African	200	100	300
Mixed—white and black Caribbean	1,000	300	1,300
Not known/not provided	1,000	400	1,400
White—any other white background	1,900	600	2,400
White—British	116,300	53,200	169,500
White—Irish	300	200	500
Learning difficulties/ disabilities			
Learning difficulty	16,200	4,200	20,400
No learning difficulty	110,100	52,200	162,300
No info	1,200	500	1,700

Note:
Numbers rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188809]

Mr. Thomas: The details of salary ranges for each pay band of civil service in the Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform are as follows:

SCS pay ranges from 1 April 2007

£

	Minimum	*Ceiling*
SCS Pay Band 1	56,100	116,000
SCS Pay Band 2	81,600	160,000
SCS Pay Band 3	99,960	205,000

Pay ranges of staff below SCS—from 1 August 2007

£

Pay range	*Minimum*	*Target rate*	*Maximum*
London 2	16,517	18,023	18,525
London 3	18,227	19,853	20,395
London 4	19,433	21,179	21,761
London 5	20,364	24,168	25,119
London 6	21,760	25,804	26,815
London 7	24,730	29,278	30,415

Pay ranges of staff below SCS—from 1 August 2007

£

Pay range	*Minimum*	*Target rate*	*Maximum*
London 8	26,313	31,221	32,448
London 9	30,903	38,327	40,183
London 10	42,375	52,359	54,855
London 11	51,355	63,435	66,455
FastStream	25,800	30,800	31,800
National 2	13,017	14,523	15,025
National 3	14,727	16,353	16,895
National 4	15,933	17,679	18,261
National 5	16,864	20,668	21,619
National 6	18,260	22,304	23,315
National 7	21,230	25,778	26,915
National 8	22,813	27,721	28,948
National 9	27,403	34,827	36,683
National 10	38,875	48,859	51,355
National 11	47,855	59,935	62,955
FastStream	22,300	27,300	28,300

Foreign Investment in UK: Japan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of UK jobs which have resulted from Japanese investment in the UK over the last five years. [192205]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has the lead role within Government for delivering trade development and inward investment services for business. It brings together the work of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international trade and investment. During the five years to March 2007, UKTI has recorded a total of 11,571 new jobs and 47,386 safeguarded jobs associated with inward investment into the UK from Japanese owned companies.

Minimum Wage

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which locations the national minimum wage information tour bus will visit; and on what dates. [192169]

Mr. McFadden: The national minimum wage bus tour began on 9 January 2008 and will end on 9 March 2008. Locations visited during the nine week tour are as follows:

Date	*Location*
9 January 2008	Walthamstow, Tower Hamlets, Hackney
10 January 2008	Stratford, East Ham
11 January 2008	Lewisham
12 January 2008	Peckham
16 January 2008	Erdington, Perry Barr, Oldbury
17 January 2008	Birmingham
18 January 2008	Small Heath
19 January 2008	Birmingham City Centre
23 January 2008	Blackburn
24 January 2008	Salford, Longsight, Wythenshaw
25 January 2008	Eccles, Harpurhey, Withington
26 January 2008	Manchester City Centre
30 January 2008	Nottingham
31 January 2008	Sutton in Ashfield, Mansfield
1 February 2008	Coventry
2 February 2008	Nottingham
6 February 2008	Barnsley
7 February 2008	Bradford
8 February 2008	Rotherham
9 February 2008	Sheffield City Centre, Handsworth
13 February 2008	Huyton
14 February 2008	Speke, Toxteth
15 February 2008	Kirkby, Walton
16 February 2008	Liverpool City Centre
18 February 2008	Newcastle City Centre
19 February 2008	Washington, Killingworth
20 February 2008	Easterhouse
21 February 2008	Tollcross, Parkhead, Clydebank
22 February 2008	Cathcart, Cambuslang
23 February 2008	Glasgow City Centre
27 February 2008	Fishponds, Redland, Filton
28 February 2008	Bristol City Centre
29 February 2008	Pontprennau, Newport, Caerphilly
1 March 2008	Cardiff City Centre
5 March 2008	Wood Green, Finsbury Park
6 March 2008	Edmonton, Tottenham, Stoke Newington
7 March 2008	Islington, Camden
8 March 2008	Brent Cross, Ealing, Willesden
9 March 2008	Bethnal Green

Minimum Wage: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies or organisations are donating goods or services in support of the national minimum wage information tour bus initiative. [192316]

Mr. McFadden: None.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which areas have had announcements of which post offices are to close under the Network Change Programme; how many planned closures there are in each of these areas; which areas have yet to have announcements made in respect of closures; and if he will make a statement; [192219]

(2) which post offices were originally proposed for closure under the Network Change Programme that have subsequently had a decision to keep them open; and if he will make a statement; [191919]

(3) for what reasons Goldcroft post office in Yeovil has been included on the list for planned post office closures; how much was spent on upgrading Goldcroft post office in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [191910]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the 2,500 post office branches earmarked for closure have postmasters or mistresses who are taking the compensation offered and are giving up the business. [192500]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons are for the planned closure of Kellet Road Post Office, Carnforth. [192595]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Reorganisation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many residents in North Yorkshire he estimates will have access by road to a post office within three miles following the implementation of the Post Office restructuring programme. [191329]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Culture

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much financial support each Regional Development Agency gave to regional cultural consortiums in each year since 1999-2000. [191889]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Regional Cultural Consortia (RCCs) were established in 1999. Since then, RDAs have engaged in varying degrees of partnership with RCCs and contributed funding accordingly. There is no formal obligation for RDAs to fund RCCs. However, some RDAs make a regular financial contribution to RCCs and some only channel funding through RCCs in relation to specific projects and do not make regular annual contributions.

The following table shows financial support by each RDA to RCCs since 1999-2000:

RDAs	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
AWM	0	0	0	0	0	87	82	82
EEDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
EMDA	0	0	0	3	25	6	70	80
LDA[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWDA	0	0	11	150	150	150	150	150
ONE	0	0	0	30	30	30	30	30
SEEDA	0	0	0	0	0	22	30	15
SWRDA[2]	0	0	0	71	85	40	67	209
YF[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	366	366

[1] There is no regional cultural consortium in London. However, there is a Cultural Strategy Group, a statutory body corporate appointed by the Mayor of London.
[2] There are no details of contributions prior to 2002-03, as management accounts for Culture South West were handled by English Heritage.
[3] YF invested £1.1 million in Yorkshire Culture over three years, it concludes in March 2008.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was paid in bonuses to staff of each regional development agency in England in each year for which figures are available. [188963]

Mr. McFadden: As non-departmental public bodies, each RDA operates bonus schemes specific to its own organisations. These are operated in line with published guidance on public sector pay and bonuses.

Bonuses are non-consolidated payments that are awarded to staff based on performance either at an individual, team or organisational level. Bonus payments are re-earnable and do not have associated future costs.

Since the RDAs were set up, bonus schemes have from time to time been revised within individual agencies to reflect their increased delivery responsibilities and the need to achieve value for money and reduce cost increases where possible.

The following table shows annual bonuses paid to staff of each RDA.

£000

RDAs	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
AWM	129	189	82	121	149
EEDA	99	106	155	154	169

£000

RDAs	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
EMDA	68	99	77	64	79
LDA[1]	n/a	n/a	132	190	156
NWDA[2]	310	493	655	660	736
ONE	111	124	118	148	183
SEEDA[3]	n/a	n/a	173	344	190
SWRDA	163	171	225	261	314
YF	100	198	255	309	260

[1] LDA did not award performance bonuses to staff before 2005

[2] In 2001, NWDA introduced a pay strategy which linked all pay (consolidated and non-consolidated) to individual performance. The pay strategy does not allow for automatic year on year pay progression or cost of living increases for staff.

[3] Figures are not available before 2003-04 as the payroll information has been archived. The requested information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Development Agencies: Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on overseas travel, in each year for which figures are available. [192807]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1682-83W.

Shoreham Harbour: Transport

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what studies the South East England Development Agency has commissioned into transport links with Shoreham Harbour. [186795]

Mr. McFadden: SEEDA has commissioned initial studies with highway consultants to evaluate infrastructure options for the Shoreham Harbour vision as part of the wider master planning work.

Sports: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what response he has made to the findings and recommendations of the Audit Commission Report of June 2006, Public sports and recreation services: making them fit for the future. [192416]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government have welcomed this important report, which highlights the need for better, more strategic decision making by local authorities on the procurement and management of leisure facilities. We want to help local authorities to revitalise their leisure facilities and to ensure that the right sports facilities are in the right places. Sport England has already developed a range of strategic planning tools to assist them. These include, among others: the Active Places database which provides a comprehensive picture of sports facilities across the country; the National Benchmarking Service; a Facilities Planning Model; and a Sports Facilities Demand Estimator. In addition, Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service is working closely with local authorities to improve the quality of their sports facilities and service delivery.

Union Modernisation Fund: Audit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 408W, on union modernisation fund: audit, for what reasons his Department took the decision to apply the Standardised Terms of Engagement to the independent accountant; and if he will amend the terms of engagement in respect of the independent accountant to enable his reports on union modernisation fund expenditure to be published. [191141]

Mr. McFadden: The decision to use the Standard Terms of Engagement was in line with standard Department practice for grant aided programmes. The Department does not intend to change this.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what total value of single farm payment cheques were issued by the Rural Payments Agency for between *(a)* £60.01 to £80.00, *(b)* £80.01 to £100.00, *(c)* £100.01 to £120.00 and *(d)* £120.01 to £150.00, in the last 12 months. [192599]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The number and value of SPS payments made in the last 12 months in the bands specified in the question were as follows:

	Number	*Value (£)*
£60.01 to £80.00	2,453	171,704
£80.01 to £100.00	2,524	226,960
£100.01 to £120.00	2,366	260,299
£120.01 to £150.00	3,059	411,719

The figures include SPS 2005, 2006 and 2007 payments.

Animal Welfare Act 2007

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* secondary legislation and *(b)* codes of practice under the Animal Welfare Act 2007 (i) he plans to produce in the next three years and (ii) he originally planned to produce in the next three years but now expects not to produce in that period. [192801]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not yet available as the departmental business planning process has still to be completed.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding was provided by his Department to each of its arm's length bodies and gross controlled agencies in each of the last three years; what the annual variation in real terms was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [189724]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* Funding details for arm's length bodies and gross controlled agencies for the last three years are provided in the following tables. HM Treasury deflators have been used to derive annual variations in real terms.

Arm's length bodies

£ million

	2005-06 Budget	*2006-07 Budget*	*Real terms Variance 2005-06 to 2006-07*	*2007-08 Budget*	*Real terms Variance 2006-07 to 2007-08*
RBG Kew	24.90	24.90	-0.7	25.20	-0.51
Food From Britain	5.37	4.97	-0.6	5.03	-0.10
British Waterways	62.60	55.40	-9.3	57.55	0.35
WRAP [1]	68.21	65.51	-4.8	59.00	-8.63
ENCAMS	5.54	5.11	-0.6	5.01	-0.26
Carbon Trust	60.60	78.30	16.5	90.66	9.82
Energy Savings Trust	26.45	26.70	-0.5	28.69	1.12
National Parks	42.13	43.12	-0.2	44.74	0.22
National Forest Co.	4.20	3.30	-1.1	3.35	-0.06
Natural England [2]	—	194.57	—	181.02	-19.87
Environment Agency	572.10	658.30	72.1	734.89	55.20
Total	872.09	1,160.16	271.6	1,235.14	37.27

[1] WRAP includes BREW programme funding for all years

[2] Natural England vested 1 October 2006—budget for 2006-07 includes set-up costs

Gross controlled agencies

£ million

	2005-06 Budget	*2006-07 Budget*	*Real terms Variance 2005-06 to 2006-07*	*2007-08 Budget*	*Real terms Variance 2006-07 to 2007-08*
RPA Operations	215.0	232.6	11.8	264.3	24.1
Marine and Fisheries Agency	21.5	25.1	3.1	24.7	-1.2
Animal Health	91.4	101.8	8.0	112.2	7.1
Govt Decontamination Service	2.5	3.3	0.7	2.6	-0.8
Total	330.4	362.8	23.6	403.8	29.2

Birds of Prey: Genetics

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species were chosen for his Department's research project on DNA profiling of birds of prey using fluorescent multiplexing initiated in 2004; what criteria were used to choose the species; what the costs to his Department were of the project; what the date of completion of the project was; and what the purpose of the project was. [191392]

Joan Ruddock: The purpose of the project was to develop fluorescent multiplexes for the golden eagle, goshawk, gyr falcon, merlin, peregrine falcon and saker falcon. The development and implementation of a fluorescent multiplex system would allow the construction of databases and allow comparisons between any sampled individuals avoiding the need to re-test them. The system should facilitate compliance checking and assist enforcement efforts.

The species were chosen to ensure that they were the most appropriate for the project, based on previous research into DNA forensic techniques involving birds of prey.

The cost to DEFRA of the project was £143,192. The work was completed in November 2006 and the final report will be published in an appropriate scientific journal shortly.

British Waterways: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on the canal system of the changes to British Waterways' budget in 2007-08. [191189]

Jonathan Shaw: British Waterways' budget has remained fixed for 2007-08 at £55.3 million and will be reinforced with a settlement of £56.624 million for 2008-09 plus £1.024 million towards the repayment of the capital of a national fund loan.

DEFRA is working with British Waterways to agree a sustainable and affordable strategy for the waterways in order to get the best public benefits from the resources available.

BSE: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he intends to continue to test brain tissue from cattle born before 1996 but which are slaughtered after the end of the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme. [191428]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the closure of the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme, cattle born before August 1996, which die or are killed, will need to be tested for BSE under current EU rules.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum time after death is by when samples from fallen stock should be taken. [R] [191557]

Jonathan Shaw: EU law does not define a "maximum time". However, we set administrative deadlines for notification (in domestic Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) regulations) and collection (in the contract with the Rural Payments Agency) of fallen cattle to enable us to meet our obligations under EU TSE legislation.

These deadlines are based on advice from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) on the rate of decomposition of bovine brain tissue. The VLA advice is influenced by various factors such as ambient temperature and the presence of disease.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to trace contacts, offspring or cohorts from cattle which test positive for BSE at slaughter either under the Older Cattle Disposal scheme or as fallen stock. [R] [191558]

Jonathan Shaw: Animal Health traces the cohorts and the offspring of cattle which test positive for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). This is done by using both an electronic database which is linked to the Cattle Tracing System, and manual inspections of farm records.

This applies to cohorts born after 31 July 1996 and to offspring born within two years prior to, or any time after, the clinical onset of BSE in the dam.

Common Fisheries Policy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the attribution of exclusive competence over marine biological resources to the EU on the exercise of responsibilities by national and regional authorities; and if he will make a statement. [192089]

Jonathan Shaw: The text of the treaty of Lisbon reflects the extent of current powers under the common fisheries policy and we do not therefore envisage any changes to the various processes concerned. For this reason, we have not seen the need to discuss the provision further or reassess its significance.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in 2007. [192202]

Jonathan Shaw: The Ministry of Justice's court proceedings data for 2007 will not be available until autumn 2008.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government intends to review the operation of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [192201]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government conducted a review of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 last year. We consulted police forces in England and Wales and discussed the outcome of this consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). A summary of the responses by police forces is available in the Library of the House.

In the light of the response from the police service, we concluded that the current legislation is sufficiently robust to effectively deal with the problem of dangerous dogs.

We will work closely with the ACPO in helping to implement initiatives to ensure that the law is enforced more effectively.

Departmental Advertising

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on advertising in each year since 2001, broken down by type of media; and if he will make a statement. [188435]

Jonathan Shaw: The core departmental expenditure on advertising for the past five available financial years is as follows:

	Media			
Financial year	*Press*	*Radio*	*Internet*	*Total*
2002-03	—	—	—	—
2003-04	5,520	—	—	—
2004-05	105,345	28,271	—	133,616
2005-06	29,498	183,335	167,460	380,293
2006-07	60,204	—	508,524	568,728

This includes communications on a wide range of matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which DEFRA has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

Individual records of spend for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188786]

Jonathan Shaw: No officers have been suspended or dismissed for accessing obscene and other prohibited materials on work computers over this period.

Before being allowed access to the internet all users are required to read and agree to a Personal Commitment Statement which sets out the requirement to follow the Department's security policies, including those which relate to the use of e-mail and the internet which are detailed on the staff intranet.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189081]

Jonathan Shaw: The civil service statistics are collected by ONS from the annual civil service employment survey (formerly Mandate) and the latest published statistics are for the year to 30 September 2006. The following table shows the number of staff under 18 years of age employed by the Department as at that date.

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	0	0
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	—	—
Central Science Laboratory	0	0
Government Decontamination Services	0	0
Marine Fisheries Agency	0	0
Pesticides Safety Directorate	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	n/a	n/a
State Veterinary Service	0	0
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	—	—
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	0

n/a = Data not available

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and numbers less than five are represented by "—".

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12-month period for which information is available. [187782]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally the amounts spent on hospitality by the core-Department are:

	£
2001-02	140,588
2002-03	344,822
2003-04	576,829
2004-05	381,138
2005-06	457,523
2006-07	405,482
2007-08 (April to December)	291,585

Direct year-on-year comparisons cannot be made because of machinery of Government changes that have occurred. The core-Department does not hold information centrally on hospitality expenditure by its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The core-Department holds no information centrally on the expenditure category of alcohol.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's expenditure was allocated to Government growth areas in the last year for which figures are available. [190954]

Jonathan Shaw: Details of DEFRA's expenditure in 2006-07 are set out in the 2007 departmental report. Information on the proportion of departmental funding which is directed at the growth areas is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing proposals to reduce the environmental impact of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs offices at Peaseholme Green, York. [188613]

Jonathan Shaw: The driver for the project at Peaseholme Green is primarily to increase occupancy capacity to enable the Department to achieve greater efficiencies in office utilisation which in itself will contribute to reducing the Department's environmental impact. All government major refurbishments and new builds are required to achieve BREEAM Excellent accreditation.

DEFRA approach capital projects holistically, which includes sustainable construction, energy and water efficiency, achieving BREEAM Excellent while giving value for money to the Exchequer. This approach is supported by the reference to two of its major projects in the National Audit Office's report dated April 2007 titled 'Building for the future: Sustainable construction and refurbishment on the government estate' where the NAO cite them as good examples.

The construction works at Kings Pool are being undertaken in an industry leading way, minimising waste output while maximising the recycling of any waste materials produced. A number of low and zero carbon technologies are also being introduced to the site including solar thermal hot water, rain water harvesting and ultra low NO_x gas fired boilers. These technologies combined with a state of the art building management system have been designed to help the building user make the most efficient use of the new facilities, and reduce the environmental impact of the site.

Using its experience in refurbishing office buildings, achieving BREEAM Excellent, reducing energy and water consumption, selecting sustainable materials and adopting sustainable construction methods, DEFRA estimate that the extra-over cost of additional sustainable technologies incorporated into the works is around £485,000 inclusive of VAT, which equates to 2.9 per cent. of the capital construction costs, which were budgeted at £16.9 million inclusive of VAT.

For comparison, BRE supported documentation indicates that in a new build naturally ventilated building a BREEAM Excellent rating costs between 2.5 per cent. and 3.4 per cent. of the capital cost; to achieve this in a major refurbishment such as that being undertaken at Kings Pool, we would anticipate this figure being higher.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181524]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. This information requested for each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the period April 2006 to December 2007 inclusive, and from information held centrally, core-DEFRA, the Animal Health Agency, the Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aqua-Cultural Science, the Government Decontamination Service, and the Rural Payments Agency the information on expenditure on travel within and outside the UK by officials is:

£

	Rail	*Air*	*Road*
Within UK	2,784,667	516,166	2,451,884
Outside UK	985,945	2,930,924	135,975

The Department Report 2007 records total departmental spending as £3,718,167,000. Travel expenditure by officials is approximately 0.26 per cent. of this sum.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187524]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core Department spent £1,285,766 on first class travel in the period January to December 2007 inclusive. Information on first class travel expenditure by DEFRA'S agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The expenditure analysis by staff grade is:

Travel type	*Grade*	*Spend*
Air	6	5,331.20
	7	19,353.70
	SEO	284.90
	SCS	12,517.20
Rail	5	49,161.64
	6	191,266.76
	7	352,800.38
	AA	8,939.65
	AO	32,395.75
	EO	53,182.15
	HEO	160,318.15
	SEO	198,710.07
	SCS	195,723.10
	Unspecified	5,781.42

Dogs: Registration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dangerous dogs are registered in the UK. [192204]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1991, there have been 8,916 dogs registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Of these, 1,130 are currently alive.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 985W, on waste disposal: domestic wastes, which organisations will carry out the independent evaluation of the rubbish collection charge pilot schemes. [192173]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

An organisation is yet to be appointed to carry out the evaluation.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 715W, and 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 86W, on domestic wastes: waste disposal, whether the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds data on the frequency of domestic rubbish collection by local authorities in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Scotland. [192183]

Joan Ruddock: As my reply of the 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 715W, stated, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) does not advise local authorities in Wales or Scotland, and does not hold data on the frequency of domestic waste collection by Welsh or Scottish authorities.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed new charges for the collection of household waste will apply to domestic hereditaments on Crown land. [192186]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Paragraph 1 of proposed schedule 2AA, which sets out the rules for the schemes, allows an authority to apply schemes to any domestic premises within the definition given in paragraph 16 of schedule 2AA. This definition of domestic premises includes domestic hereditaments on Crown land, as it covers any part of a building used wholly for the purposes of living accommodation. It will be up to an authority to decide which premises its scheme will include.

Energy: Conservation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings his officials have had with the European Commission's Director General for Enterprise and Industry or his representatives where the concerns of UK industry on the application of the Eco design of Energy-using Products Directive were discussed. [188766]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* The Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry is jointly leading on the energy using products (EUP) directive with the Directorate General for Energy and Transport.

DEFRA officials regularly meet and discuss issues on an EU level, including on energy efficient products. DEFRA officials attended a number of meetings on the EUP where officials from the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry have been present. These include consultation forum meetings on 22 June, 19 October and 18 December last year, and 22 February this year.

While DEFRA officials have had general discussions on the EUP, no bilateral meetings between DEFRA and the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry have taken place where specific industry concerns have been discussed.

Energy-using Products Framework Directive

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which organisations his Department consulted during the development of the framework for the Energy-using Products Framework Directive; [190508]

(2) if he will hold meetings with interested parties in the three week consultation period on the Energy-using Products Framework Directive in addition to the consultation forum planned for 29 February. [190510]

Joan Ruddock: My officials held a number of meetings with a very wide range of UK stakeholders during the development and negotiation of the Energy Using Products Framework Directive (EuP), which was finalised in 2005.

Officials from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and DEFRA have met with representatives from the UK boiler and water heaters industry throughout the period in which the EU consultant was undertaking a study to assess the suitability of these products for the development and implementing measure under EuP. The most recent meeting was held on 4 February to discuss the Commission's first draft proposal for an implementing measure. Written views were also invited ahead of the EU Consultation Forum on 29 February. In addition, officials attended meetings with the European Trade Associations on 28 February in order to learn more about the issues the boiler and heating industry face across Europe. DEFRA officials will continue to engage with the industry on this issue.

Environment Protection: Fixed Penalties

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices have been issued under section 47ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [192179]

Jonathan Shaw: In the reporting period April 2006 to March 2007, 988 fixed penalty notices were issued under Section 47ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Statistics on fixed penalty notices for environmental offences are published on the DEFRA website.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the European Fisheries Fund National Strategic Plan and Operational Programme was not developed between October and December 2006, as envisaged in his Department's Autumn 2006 edition of Fishing Focus. [192095]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1623W.

Fisheries: Inspections

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average time fishery inspection officers spent in post was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [193144]

Jonathan Shaw: The average length of service of the Fishery Officers in post on 1 January 2008 is 11½ years.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons a formal consultation paper for quota management change proposals was not published in the period January to March 2007, as envisaged in his Department's Autumn 2006 edition of Fishing Focus; and if he will make a statement. [192090]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1624W.

Floods

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 978W, on floods, whether the Environment Agency charges for access to, or reproduction of, the additional flood mapping data and flood defence information referred to. [192178]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency provides access to additional flood mapping data and flood defence information which is not available on its internet site, or otherwise already reasonably accessible to the public, without charge up to the "appropriate limit" set by the Freedom of Information Act. In the agency's case, this is £450. The agency's standard licence terms and conditions allow members of the public to reproduce the information.

Hazardous Substances: Brofiscin Quarry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency has taken to identify those responsible for dumping of toxic waste at Brofiscin Quarry; and if he will make a statement. [191940]

Mr. Woolas: This matter is within the devolved responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Management

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed toxic dumps in England need remedial action; what each site contains; who is responsible for taking remedial action; what the estimated cost of remedial action is at each site; and if he will make a statement. [191941]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating licensed landfill sites in England and Wales. Landfill sites are categorised as inert, non-hazardous and hazardous as a requirement of the Landfill Directive. There are 16 commercial landfill sites permitted to take hazardous waste and there are nine non-commercial sites that are restricted by waste type. There are a further 48 landfill sites that have permits that allow disposal of limited quantities of particular stable non-reactive hazardous wastes in separate contained cells.

There are approximately 1,596 closed landfill sites that are still authorised under a waste management licence. The Environment Agency estimates that 20 per cent. of these sites may have taken 'special/hazardous or difficult waste' and a review of the impact of all closed sites is under way.

Due to the age of some of the sites and the nature of the legislation prior to 1990 it is not possible to list the content of each of these sites.

Any remedial action required by the Environment Agency at regulated sites would be carried out by and at the expense of the permit or licence holder. The Environment Agency is not responsible for carrying out this work and does not record costs associated with this work.

Heating: EC Law

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what matters were *(a)* discussed and *(b)* agreed at the consultation forum on boilers and water heaters in respect of implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive held on 29 February; and if he will make a statement. [192817]

Joan Ruddock: Consultation Forum meetings are an opportunity for the European Commission to discuss their proposals for an implementing measure under the Framework Directive for the eco design of Energy using Products (EuP) with member state representatives and stakeholders. The Consultation Forum is not a decision-making body. The meetings are a first public discussion of the proposals, and are not intended to reach agreement.

At the meeting on 29 February, member states and industry representatives gave initial reactions to the proposals contained in the Commission's Working Document issued on 31 January.

The formal minutes of the meeting will be available on the Commission's website in due course.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the possible effects reducing the Warm Front grant will have on the 21 per cent. of rural fuel poor who live in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people; [191427]

(2) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of reducing the annual Warm Front grant relating to energy efficiency levels in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people classified as *(a)* hard to reach and *(b)* hard to treat. [191426]

Mr. Woolas: As confirmed in the Government's 5th Annual Report on the UK's Fuel Poverty Strategy published in December 2007, funding for the Warm Front Scheme for 2008-11 period will be just over £800 million.

DEFRA has had no discussions with HM Treasury regarding the impact of the scheme on rural fuel poor during this period.

No direct assessment of the environmental impact of the annual Warm Front grant relating to energy efficiency levels in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people has taken place.

Warm Front will continue to actively target hard to reach and hard to treat properties including those in rural settlements to help improve the energy efficiency of those households.

Landfill Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 981W, on landfill tax, what the notional financial value in 2007-08 is of the 0.2 per cent. reduction in employer's national insurance contribution. [192175]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Structural reforms to employers' national insurance contributions in 1999 mean that it is not possible to calculate the current notional value of the 0.2 percentage point rate reduction that accompanied the introduction of landfill tax.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 981W, on landfill tax, what the estimated revenue in landfill tax in each of the next three years is. [192177]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published in Table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

Marine and Fisheries Agency: Manpower

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff at each *(a)* grade and *(b)* job title were employed in the Marine and Fisheries Agency in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [190472]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency was created on 1 October 2005, and the first available staff numbers are as at 31 October 2005. The number of staff in full-time equivalents at each grade equivalent in each year is shown in the following table. Job titles are not generally used.

	31 October 2005	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*	*31 December 2007*
AA	19.79	25.49	18.87	23.27
AO	30.76	31.76	27.95	32.76
EO	50.00	56.00	50.00	54.80
HEO	23.00	22.41	22.00	24.00
SEO	15.00	16.00	15.00	20.00
Grade 7	7.00	7.00	8.00	9.00
Grade 6	1.00	1.00	3.00	3.00
SCS	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total	147.55	160.65	145.82	167.83

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans for staff reductions at the Marine and Fisheries Agency in the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [190473]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency has no plans at present to reduce staff numbers over the next three financial years. MFA has already achieved headcount targets and will continue to review staffing levels in order to meet its business objectives and any wider departmental efficiency requirements.

Oikos: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice the Environment Agency has provided to Oikos on Canvey Island on remedial work in respect of their operations; and if he will make a statement. [191909]

Mr. Woolas: Oikos Storage Ltd. undertakes a variety of operations at its site in Haven road, Canvey Island. These range from liquid hazardous waste storage and treatment to the filtration and refinement of waste fuels, including oils and tallow.

The Environment Agency regulates these activities through compliance assessment and enforcement of the current waste management licence and the pollution prevention control (PPC) permit.

The Environment Agency is not aware of any ongoing remedial works. However, the PPC permit requires several improvement conditions to be met. These include reviewing the integrity of the storage tanks and improving bunding arrangements and site surfacing. Other improvement conditions required include the reduction of risk of pollution from fire water and major spillages, a review of the type of boiler fuel used to reduce potential emissions, and measures to control both gaseous emissions and discharges to the Thames estuary.

The Environment Agency is awaiting the outcome of the review from Oikos and will enter into discussions with the company should any improvements be required.

Pollution Control: Nitrous Oxide

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the permitted levels of nitrous oxide emissions from incinerators are under European legislation; and if he will make a statement; [192720]

(2) what assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of the performance of other EU member states and the US in reducing nitrous oxide emissions from incinerators; and if he will make a statement; [192726]

(3) when his Department last reviewed the permitted levels of nitrous oxide emissions from incinerators; and if he will make a statement. [192727]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) does not specify any limits for emissions of nitrous oxide from incinerators.

The Best Available Techniques Reference Document ("BREF") for waste incineration published by the European Commission quotes measured values of nitrous oxide for well-performing municipal waste incinerators in Europe of 1-12 mg/m^3 with an average of 1-2 mg/m^3. We have no equivalent figures for incinerators in the United States.

Permits issued by the Environment Agency for incineration plants do not impose an emission limit value for nitrous oxide but require periodic monitoring (twice a year) where ammonia or urea is used for abatement oxides of nitrogen. In addition, applicants for new incinerators are required to include nitrous oxide emissions in their assessment of the global warming potential of the plant.

Poultry: EC Law

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department plans to give to farmers on the interpretation of Council Directive 2007/43/EC on poultry stocking density. [192858]

Jonathan Shaw: Council Directive 2007/43/EC on the protection of meat chickens will come into force on 30 June 2010.

The directive will be implemented in England through an amendment to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007. The devolved Administrations will similarly transpose the directive in their legislation.

As with all new legislation, appropriate guidance will be issued. The legislation and associated guidance will be the subject of a full public consultation exercise.

Seas and Oceans: EU Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* penalties his Department has faced from the European Commission in relation to marine and fisheries policy and its administration, *(b)* criticisms the European Commission has raised in relation to UK marine and fisheries policy and its administration and *(c)* disallowances and financial sanctions his Department has faced in relation to UK marine and fisheries policy and its administration in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [191930]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission (EC) periodically looks at legislation which implements EC obligations and, either as a result of this or of a complaint received, any perceived failures or criticisms are dealt with in accordance with the infraction procedures set out in the treaty. The UK has never received a fine, disallowance or any other penalty as a result of these procedures.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to submit the first candidate offshore special area of conservation to the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [191614]

Joan Ruddock: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has been consulting on seven offshore marine sites since December 2007. These include: Braemar Pockmarks, Darwin Mounds, Haig Fras, North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, Scanner Pockmark, Stanton Banks and Wyville Thomson Ridge. The consultation is due to close on 14 March 2008.

Following consultation, the JNCC may recommend to the Government that these sites be submitted to the European Commission for consideration as European offshore marine sites. If the Government then decide to submit these sites to the European Commission, it is expected that the submission will be made before September this year.

Sewage: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has on *(a)* the energy consumption of sewage treatment in the UK and *(b)* the energy saving potential of urine separation. [192250]

Mr. Woolas: Treating and pumping wastewater consumes energy and releases greenhouse gas emissions. The greenhouse gas emissions from the water sector were mapped for the first time in "Future Water—The Government's Water Strategy for England", which was published in February 2008. Over 2.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases, as carbon dioxide equivalents, are emitted from the treatment of wastewater every year.

The use of urine separation systems has the potential to help reduce emissions, save water and reduce wastewater treatment costs. However, while urine-separation toilets would be relatively easy to install, it would also be necessary to adapt associated domestic pipe work and fit on-site storage facilities. Existing public sewerage systems have been developed to carry away all foul water from premises. To alter these systems in order to separate waste streams would be costly and impractical, but could be considered in new developments with discrete sewerage infrastructure.

Sustainable Development: Flood Control

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on inclusion of sustainable urban drainage systems in new housing or community developments; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such systems. [191461]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has received a range of representations on the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems in new housing or community developments. We expect to receive more during the course of the consultation on Surface Water Drainage, which was recently published alongside the Government's water strategy, 'Future Water'.

As part of the impact assessment to accompany the current consultation on Surface Water Drainage, DEFRA has made a quantitative assessment of the benefits of implementing sustainable drainage systems in relation to reducing localised flooding. The benefits to water quality are also outlined in the impact assessment but have not yet been quantified.

Trapping

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his timetable is for publishing a review of his Department's Snares Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [191993]

Joan Ruddock: The Department aims to complete a review of the Department's Snares Action Plan by the end of this year and to publish it as soon as practicable.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 753W, on waste disposal: domestic wastes, what plans he has to apply charges for household waste disposal to civic amenity sites in the pilot areas for schemes to incentivise the reduction of household waste. [192314]

Joan Ruddock: As stated in the Climate Change Bill, the Government have no plans to apply charges for household waste under waste incentive schemes to civic amenity sites. Residents will be able to use their civic amenity site in exactly the same way as now.

Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of the UK's hazardous waste was treated and stored in Gloucestershire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [183100]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: According to Environment Agency records, 112,410 tonnes of hazardous waste was deposited in Gloucestershire in 2006, the most recent period for which figures are available. This figure does include waste transfer, so the waste may ultimately be disposed of outside the county.

6,037,068 tonnes of hazardous waste was produced in the UK in that year, making Gloucestershire's share 1.86 per cent. of the UK total.

Waste Management: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1181W, on waste management: fees and charges, what provisions apply to the collection of household waste from charged-for receptacles where the householder provides their own receptacles to the necessary specifications. [192327]

Joan Ruddock: The provisions relating to a local authority's duty to collect waste are set out in section 45 and section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

As set out in section 46(3), the same provisions apply whether authorities:

(i) provide the receptacles free of charge;

(ii) provide the receptacles and ask the occupier to pay for them;

(iii) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself if he does not agree to pay for them within a specified period; or

(iv) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself from the outset.

Waste Management: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding from *(a)* the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme and *(b)* other funding streams within his responsibility has been provided to (i) the Carbon Trust, (ii) Envirowise, (iii) the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme and (iv) Wrap in (A) 2005-06 and (B) 2006-07; and what the volume was of (1) landfill diverted (tonnes), (2) carbon dioxide emissions averted, (3) virgin materials not used, (4) hazardous waste reduced and (5) amount of water saved (tonnes) as a result of this expenditure. [174312]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA's Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme is returning £284 million raised from the landfill tax escalator back to businesses between 2005 and 2008. Work is being taken forward to improve businesses' resource efficiency and to minimise waste that is unnecessarily sent to landfill. Funds are awarded to a number of regional and national BREW delivery bodies. Allocations for 2005 to 2007 are set out in the following table.

£ million

Delivery body	*Budget 2005-06*	*Budget 2006-07*
Action Sustainability	0	0.219
Carbon Trust	3	23.382
DEFRA's Waste Data Strategy	0.5	2.1
Environment Agency	2	4.454
Envirowise	12	16.772
Market Transformation Programme	2.65	2.8955
National Industrial Symbiosis Programme	2.675	5.7
Regional Development Agencies	5	11.71
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts—Business Reuse Fund	0	2
Technology Strategy Board	2	5.654
WRAP	2.854	6.288
Other (includes coordination, communication, pilot projects, funding for agricultural waste project and programme contingency fund)	0.321	3.24
Total	33	84.415

The BREW Programme has also continued to provide funding towards other business resource efficiency and waste activities in England, as shown:

Delivery body	*Activity*	*2006-07 funding (£ million)*
Carbon Trust	Energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction activities	13.618
WRAP	Work with the construction, manufacturing, retail and recycling and reprocessing industries to reduce waste and encourage recycling	4.7
Total		18.318

In 2005-06, the delivery bodies referred to in the question achieved the short-term savings aggregated in the following table. These show the results for £18.5 million of all £33 million of projects funded from the BREW Programme.

The results must be viewed with caution, since delivery bodies report according to a range of methodologies. Work is under way to improve consistency of this reporting and to apply reporting more widely. The results are only for BREW-funded activities. Some savings will result from these interventions in future years, which are not counted here.

Metric	*In-year result*
Waste diverted from landfill	675,000 tonnes
Carbon savings	320,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide
Virgin raw material savings	682,000 tonnes
Hazardous waste savings	120,000 tonnes
Water savings	5,630,000 cubic metres

DEFRA has not yet released individual delivery body results for 2005-06. These include some selected long-term results, which are not included in the aforementioned table. Similarly, work is currently underway to verify BREW Programme results for 2006-07. I will deposit both sets of results in the House Library when they are ready.

In addition to funding from the BREW Programme, DEFRA has provided the following funding to the delivery bodies as follows. NISP has not received any non-BREW funding from DEFRA.

		£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*
Carbon Trust	57.6	41.644
Envirowise	2.292	2.292
WRAP	67.605	51.58

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was allocated to each organisation in the business resource efficiency and waste partnership for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [175407]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Final allocations for the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme are set out as follows:

		£ million
Delivery body	*Budget 2005-06*	*Budget 2006-07*
Action Sustainability	0	0.219
Carbon Trust	3	23.382
DEFRA's Waste Data Strategy	0.5	2.1
Environment Agency	2	4.454
Envirowise	12	16.772
Market Transformation Programme	2.65	2.8955
National Industrial Symbiosis Programme	2.675	5.7
Regional Development Agencies	5	11.71
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts—Business Reuse Fund	0	2
Technology Strategy Board	2	5.654
WRAP	2.854	6.288
Other (includes coordination, communication, pilot projects, funding for agricultural waste project and programme contingency fund)	0.321	3.24
Total	33	84.415

BREW has also provided funding towards other business resource efficiency and waste activities in England, including £18.318 million in 2006-07 for the following:

Delivery body	*Activity*	*2006-07 funding (£ million)*
Carbon Trust	Energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction activities	13.618
WRAP	Work with the construction, manufacturing, retail and recycling and reprocessing industries to reduce waste and encourage recycling	4.7
Total		18.318

These demonstrate that over the two year period from 2005 to 2007, at least £135 million of funding has been spent by DEFRA on business resource efficiency activities through the three years of the BREW programme.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been allocated by his Department to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme for financial year 2008-09. [193022]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2274W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council: Local Government Finance

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Bury Metropolitan Borough Council received from the Government in *(a)* revenue and *(b)* specific grant in each year since the introduction of council tax; and what the percentage change in revenue grant was in each such year. [190662]

John Healey: The level of annual central Government revenue grant, the percentage change from the previous year and total specific grants awarded to Bury Metropolitan borough council since council tax was introduced is tabled as follows.

				£000	
	Central Government revenue grant[1] *(£000)*	*Percentage change from previous year*	*Specific grants within AEF*	*Specific grants outside AEF*	*Total specific grants*
1993-94	86,867	—	6,359	25,844	32,203
1994-95	93,410	7.5	6,902	25,034	31,936
1995-96	95,033	1.7	6,219	25,839	32,058
1996-97	97,357	2.4	5,744	25,950	31,694
1997-98	95,044	-2.4	4,601	28,058	32,659
1998-99	103,034	8.4	5,201	25,576	30,777
1999-2000	108,971	5.8	6,603	25,502	32,105
2000-01	118,915	9.1	11,908	23,567	35,475
2001-02	125,262	5.3	15,601	22,683	38,284
2002-03	135,070	7.8	21,411	28,892	50,303
2003-04	155,201	14.9	27,393	25,168	52,561
2004-05	170,860	10.1	33,863	47,464	81,327
2005-06	181,131	6.0	35,932	72,999	108,931
2006-07	190,238	5.0	133,582	58,891	192,473

[1] Includes specific grants within AEF.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

Figures are as supplied by the local authority to Communities and Local Government.

The large change in specific grants within Aggregate External Finance (AEF) from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is because local authorities now receive funding for schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (a specific grant within AEF) rather than as part of formula grant.

Most of the increase in specific grants outside AEF between 2003-04 and 2004-05 is because rent rebates paid to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) tenants are, from 2004-05, paid through the general fund revenue account rather than the HRA account.

Most of the volatility in specific grants outside AEF between 2004-05 and 2006-07 relates to Connexions grant. The purpose of this grant is to support the delivery of Connexions Services to young people; providing information, advice, guidance and access to personal development opportunities.

Central Government revenue grant is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Police grant, General GLA grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants within Aggregate External Finance (AEF) but excludes specific grants outside AEF.

Specific grants within AEF are defined here as those revenue grants paid for council's core services (e.g. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Standards Fund).

Specific grants outside AEF are defined here as those revenue grants that are not for authority's core services, but are passed to a third party (e.g. rent allowances and rebates).

The aforementioned grants exclude capital grants, funding for the local authority's housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authority is simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Debt Collection: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who in her Department is responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Standards for Enforcement Agents by local authorities; what compliance checks were undertaken in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [187010]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 965-6W.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regulatory impact assessments her Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191277]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the final Regulatory Impact Assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7297/7297.pdf

For Communities and Local Government, 12 have been listed.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final Regulatory Impact Assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007.

From April 2008, all final Impact Assessment will be published on a central website.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by her Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [191519]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the numbers of recruits to the Department aged over 55 for each of the past three years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

	Recruits over age 55
2006	10
2005	40
2004	30

These figures exclude our executive agencies or the Government offices. Temporary agency staff or other workers who are not departmental employees are also excluded.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of households and *(b)* size of the population in each waste collection authority area in England. [191652]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing information on households and population figures for 2004 by local authority has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Fire Prevention

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in England received home fire safety advice in 2007 in the most recent year for which figures are most recently available, broken down by fire authority. [193027]

Mr. Dhanda: For the year ending September 2007 (the most recent information available) fire and rescue services in England carried out 555,253 home fire risk checks. This is broken down by fire and rescue authority area in the following table:

Fire and rescue authority	*Home fire risk checks undertaken*
Avon	2,872
Bedfordshire/Luton	3,971
Buckinghamshire	2,123
Cambridgeshire	5,666
Cheshire	38,281
Cleveland	22,469
Cornwall	20,635
Cumbria	11,340
Derbyshire	5,994
Devon[1]	2,051
Devon and Somerset[1]	3,380
Dorset	2,312
Durham	11,166
East Sussex	8,574
Essex	3,513
Greater Manchester	21,491
Gloucestershire	2,110
Hampshire	9,548
Hereford	2,632
Hertfordshire	3,328
Humber	14,110
Isle of Scilly	34
Isle of Wight	2,144
Kent	7,173
Lancashire	39,614
Leicestershire	10,401
Lincoln	1,633
London	44,813
Merseyside	31,657
Norfolk	1,908
Northamptonshire	2,845
Northumberland	3,765
North Yorkshire	5,899
Nottinghamshire	4,518
Oxfordshire	3,118
Royal Berkshire	998
Shropshire	31,540
Somerset[1]	663
South Yorkshire	14,294
Staffordshire	13,760
Suffolk	1,571
Surrey	3,539
Tyne and Wear	21,357
Warwickshire	2,284
West Midlands	40,920
West Sussex	5,884
West Yorkshire	59,850
Wiltshire	1,505
Total	555,253

[1] Devon and Somerset fire authorities merged in April 2007. The data prior to April 2007 are given separately.

Fires

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many primary fires there were in each *(a)* fire authority and *(b)* region in each year since 1986. [192719]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Floods: Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W, on flooding: planning, what the location was of each site for which planning application was approved contrary to Environment Agency objection on grounds of flood risk in each year since 2001. [191639]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information identifying the planning applications approved contrary to the Environment Agency's objections on flood risk grounds is set out in Appendix 3 to the agency's annual High Level Target 5 reports to CLG and DEFRA on development and flood risk for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07. This identifies the district in which the application was submitted, although it does not include the precise location of each site. This information will be obtainable from the local planning authorities which approved the applications listed in Appendix 3 to each report. The latest report is available on the Environment Agency's website at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/512398/908812/1351053/571633/952531/

Earlier reports are available on request from the agency.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W, on flood: planning, what the location was of each planning application recorded by the Environment Agency as approved contrary to its objections on flood risk in each year since 2001. [192184]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today. (PQ 191639).

Government Office for London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to grant the Government office for London powers to examine and report on the expenditure of *(a)* the Greater London Authority and *(b)* the London Development Agency. [192401]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no plans to enhance the Government office for London's role in relation to the expenditure of the Greater London Authority or London Development Agency.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has undertaken into the number of houses marketed in each of the energy performance certificate bands. [188210]

Caroline Flint: No research has been undertaken on the number of houses marketed in each of the energy performance bands. However information on SAP ratings for the whole housing stock is published as part of the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The 2006 EHCS Headline Report, published in January 2008, presented the number of homes in each energy performance certificate band.

Housing Market: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to collect data in respect of spending on empty properties under market renewal programmes; and if she will make a statement. [191098]

Mr. Iain Wright: Pathfinders and local authorities independently collect information specific to their needs and this often relates to empty properties where appropriate and relevant. The relative balance of such spending from pathfinder to pathfinder varies widely, reflecting their different market circumstances and investment programmes.

Vacancy rates across the housing market renewal areas have fallen since the programme began in 2002 from 5.09 per cent. to 4.27 per cent. in 2006, representing a fall of 16 per cent. over the period. We expect these figures to continue to fall further towards targets of 1.65 per cent. for the North-West and 1.35 per cent. for Yorkshire and the Humber by 2016.

We have introduced Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) and other measures to enable local authorities to bring long-term empty homes back into use as a last resort where owners have declined voluntary measures and have no plans to bring their properties back into use.

We are working with the Empty Homes Agency to ensure that all local authorities implement effective empty property strategies that target properties left empty for long periods of time.

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix for 2007. [191945]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department intends to publish information collected from local authorities in the 2007 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as soon as possible.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with HM Treasury on standardisation of the definition of a zero-carbon house. [191463]

Mr. Iain Wright: Discussions about the definition of a zero-carbon house have been held, and are on-going between my Department and Treasury as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 438-40W, on housing: construction, if she will provide the absolute figure for the 50 per cent. of the new build activity for which figures are available. [185488]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is not possible to provide absolute figures because information on type and number of bedrooms is collected centrally from only one sector of the building control industry. To present this information could lead to the disclosure of market sensitive information.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding sources contribute to the Housing Corporation's new build programme; and what the total funding for the programme was in the last year for which figures are available. [192794]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation receives grant from this Department to fund its Affordable Housing programme. In 2006-07 the Housing Corporation spent a total of £1.9 billion through its Affordable Housing programme on the provision of new affordable housing for social rent and low cost home ownership.

Schemes within the programme are funded through a variety of sources including borrowing by registered social landlords; registered social landlords own resources and contributions through other public bodies.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid for *(a)* gap funding for registered social landlords after large-scale voluntary transfers, *(b)* costs of establishing large-scale voluntary transfers, *(c)* annual grants to arms length management organisations (ALMOs), *(d)* costs of establishing and grants to new ALMOs and *(e)* regional social housing grants for new holdings in each year since 2005-06; and how much has been allocated for each in each year until 2010-11. [186678]

Mr. Iain Wright: Capital funding support to arms length management organisations (ALMOs) is allocated in the form of supported capital expenditure allowances within the housing revenue account subsidy system. The Department does not hold a record centrally of the costs of establishing ALMOs.

The following table sets outs the funding information requested. The allocations for future years are those that have been made following CSR07. Final allocations for each year have yet to be determined.

£

	Outturn 2005-06	*Outturn 2006-07*	*Forecast 2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2011-12*
(a) Gap funding for RSLs	37.6 million	21.918 million	80 million		240 million	
(b) Costs of establishing LSVTs[1]	15.33 million	27.78 million	27.87 million		Not known	
(c) ALMO supported capital expenditure	854 million	845 million	925 million		2.4 billion	
(e) Housing Corporation affordable housing programme	1.6 billion	1.9 billion	2 billion		8.4 billion	

[1] These figures include both local authority and RSL set up costs. We do not hold separate figures.

Housing: Migration

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what ways her Department is improving the information available on migrants and housing; and how she plans to make this information available *(a)* locally and *(b)* nationally. [190152]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department collects information in the Survey of English Housing on the nationality of the main householder and, for those born outside the UK, the year of arrival in the UK. This survey ends in April 2008 and is being replaced by a similar survey. The new survey will include a set of core questions covering nationality, country of birth and year of arrival for all members of every household interviewed for the survey. This will provide a more robust picture on migrants and housing than is currently available.

Findings from the 2007-08 Survey of English Housing will be available from end-2008. The first findings from the new English Housing Survey will be available from end-2009.

Information on social lettings is collected by St. Andrews university on behalf of the Housing Corporation and the Department through the Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE). This includes information on the characteristics of new tenants, including nationality. Information from CORE is published on the CORE website www.core.ac.uk. The Department is working with St. Andrews university to improve the participation of local authorities in CORE.

We are also working with local authorities to provide better information on numbers of homelessness acceptances for foreign nationals on the P1E statutory homelessness form.

The Department has also published revised 2004-based household projections. These are linked to the Office for National Statistics' revised sub-national population projections, that used an improved methodology for estimating the distribution of international migration across England.

Housing: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to *(a)* extend and *(b)* curtail permitted development rights for householders. [189514]

Mr. Iain Wright: In November 2007 the Government published their responses to consultations on permitted development rights for householders, including householder micro-generation. In general, forthcoming changes will extend permitted development rights. Householders will have more scope to extend their homes under permitted development up to maximum dimensions designed to ensure no adverse impact on neighbours. There will also be a separate allowance for loft extensions. Local authorities will be able to introduce local variations using Local Development Orders to provide greater freedom for development and Article 4 Directions to restrict permitted development where greater protection is needed.

Permitted development rights will be restricted in a similar way to the current rules in designated areas, such as conservation areas. The Government have also announced that planning permission will be required for paving front gardens where the surface is impermeable. This change is designed to reduce the risk of flooding from rapid surface runoff of rainwater.

Housing: Standards

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were judged to be of poor quality in the *(a)* social rented and *(b)* private sector in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each year since 1979. [186986]

Mr. Iain Wright: Statutory definitions of "poor quality" housing have changed between 1979 and present so there is no consistent set of information that allows comparison over the whole time period. The 1989 Local Government and Housing Act updated the then current fitness assessment and this revised measure remained in place until April 2006 (when it was replaced by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System).

Nationally, the English House Condition Survey is used to monitor conditions and was carried out and reported every five years until 2001 and annually from 2003. The survey provides the following national estimates for fitness from 1991 to 2006, table 1:

Table 1: Number of homes not meeting the Fitness Standard in England by sector, 1991-2006

		Number (thousand)
	Social	*Private*
1991	339	1,159
1996	301	1,171
2001	181	722
2003	196	808
2004	193	792
2005	183	720
2006	175	707

Base:
All dwellings
Note:
The increase between 2001 and 2003 is not statistically significant and estimates between these two years may have been affected by changes in the sample design of the survey which was reorganised to provide annual results from 2003.
Source:
English House Condition Survey

Information on 'unfit' dwellings is collected by local authorities in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and numbers are available for private sector dwellings for the last 10 years covering Cornwall (including the Isles of Scilly) and the South West of England, table 2 as follows. However records for social housing have not been collected on a sufficiently consistent basis over this period to provide reliable estimates for these areas.

Table 2: Number of unfit private sector dwellings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and the South West, as reported by local authorities

	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	*South West*
1997	22,414	116,566
1998	22,077	115,815
1999	22,584	119,109
2000	21,402	112,384
2001	21,767	107,619
2002	21,618	105,322
2003	18,178	101,967
2004	10,382	85,508
2005	11,900	85,349
2006	10,643	85,614

Note:
Data as reported by local authorities. These figures may be affected by non-reporting of numbers of unfit dwellings, and will be dependent on overall stock figures.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix Return (HSSA), from section A.

Housing: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use her Department is planning to make of Valuation Office Agency data for the purposes of housing and delivery grant allocation. [189544]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published the draft allocation criteria for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant in October 2007 for consultation which closed on 17 January. We will set out the financial allocation criteria in due course, taking account of the views expressed in the consultation.

As part of this, we are considering what sources of information are appropriate, including summary information from the Valuation Office Agency on changes in dwelling numbers by local authority.

Local Authorities: Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what value of equity is held in housing stock by each local authority in England. [188815]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold data on the value of equity held in housing stock by each local authority in England. Neither does it hold data that would enable the calculation of the value of equity for that stock.

A table has been deposited in the Library of the House showing the value of the stock for local housing authorities in England at January 1999 prices—data the Department holds for the purpose of the calculation of assumed rent levels in the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. The table also shows the level of housing debt in that authority in 1998-99 and 2006-07, the latest year for which we have audited data.

Ministerial Duties: West Midlands

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 770W, on Ministerial Duties: West Midlands, how much time the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill has spent on his regional ministerial brief in each week since his appointment as Minister for the West Midlands. [179591]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Regional Ministers divide their time between their roles as regional Minister, departmental Minister and constituency Member of Parliament. The amount of time devoted to each role varies from week to week according to events in the region and the Minister's other commitments.

National Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [184232]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Noise: Aviation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether increased noise from an airport expanding in size or frequency of aircraft would be considered a material change by the Valuation Office Agency for the purposes of a council tax valuation. [191654]

John Healey: A proposal could validly be made seeking a reduction in the valuation band provided changes to the physical state of the locality have occurred which demonstrably affect property values, and that impact on value is sufficient to move the property into a lower band. Increases in frequency or noise from aircraft alone, which are not connected with physical development of an airport, would not be viewed by the VOA as a valid basis for making a proposal.

Planning

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* completion date was of the (i) future of building control, (ii) Councillors' Commission, (iii) evaluation of Social HomeBuy, (iv) review of the future governance of the planning portal, (v) review of land use and (vi) review of shared equity projects. [190540]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The information requested is as follows.

(i) Future of building control: *(a)* estimated budget is £42,400, excluding CLG staff costs. *(b)* The work was completed in February and the consultation paper will be published shortly.

(ii) Councillors' Commission: *(a)* budget of £500,000, excluding CLG staff costs. *(b)* The Councillors Commission Report: "Representing the Future" was published on 10 December 2007.

(iii) Evaluation of Social HomeBuy: *(a)* estimated budget is £189,734, excluding CLG staff costs. *(b)* the work was completed on 15 February 2008 and the report will be published in due course.

(iv) Review of future governance of the planning portal: *(a)* overall budget is £250,000 excluding CLG staff costs. *(b)* Work is due to be completed by March 2008.

(v) Barker Review of land use planning: *(a)* estimated budget is £356,679. *(b)* the report was published on 5 December 2006.

(vi) Brian Pomeroy's Review of the shared equity market: *(a)* estimated budget is £4,250; *(b)* the review is due to be completed in March.

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require the owners of sports grounds to obtain the agreement of the local planning authority before their land ceases to be used for sporting activities; and if she will make a statement. [192706]

Mr. Iain Wright: Unless there are relevant conditions attached to a planning permission for a sports ground, or specific requirements, for example in a covenant, there are no powers available to a local planning authority to require the owner to seek their agreement to cease using their land for sporting activities.

If it is proposed subsequently to develop the land, the developer would normally need to make an application to the local planning authority for planning permission. When considering the planning application, the local authority would need to have regard to the national planning policies including those in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation". Paragraph 10 of PPG 17 states that

> "Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements".

Regional Government: Ministers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1533W, on regional government: Ministers, on how many occasions each regional Minister has visited each of the constituencies in their region referred to in the answer. [191377]

Mr. Dhanda: A table showing the number of Regional Minister visits to constituencies mentioned in the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1533W has been deposited in the Library of the House. Some of these visits have taken place since the publication of the answer. In addition, regional Ministers have since made visits to constituencies not mentioned in the previous answer.

Due to the role of regional Minister, which involves regional or sub-regional meetings, the Minister may not have visited a constituency per se, but attended a meeting held in that area.

Regional Ministers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of regional Ministers against their stated objectives; and if she will make a statement. [192318]

Mr. Dhanda: While no formal assessment has yet been made of their effectiveness, Regional Ministers have been actively pursuing those roles set out for them in the Governance of Britain Green Paper published in July 2007. They have helped ensure that the development and delivery of Government policy takes account of the key issues facing their regions, both by engaging with a wide range of regional partners in meetings and dedicated visits and by representing their regions within Government. Regional Ministers have also been involved in the appointment of Regional Development Agency chairs and boards, while their relation to forthcoming regional committees will be determined over the coming months following the Modernisation Committee's inquiry into regional accountability.

Regional Planning and Development: Travelling People

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of the East of England Regional Assembly's consultation on the draft revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England. [192372]

Mr. Iain Wright: The East of England regional assembly's total budget for 2007-08 for consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England (February 2008) was £30,000. This comprised £20,000 to commission the Ormiston Trust to consult Gypsy and Traveller communities, £5,000 for printing and distributing hard copies of the consultation documents and £5,000 for six county-wide consultation events. The precise figures spent on the Single Issue Review will be established after the end of this financial year. In addition, there were costs of £9,000 for the Sustainability Appraisal which was conducted on the Single Issue Review.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected cost is of GO East's consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review: planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England. [192373]

Mr. Iain Wright: The projected budget for GO-East's consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England is approximately £7,000. This comprises £6,000 for consultation software, with the remainder due to costs associated with holding two consultation events.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the factors to which local planning authorities and regional planning bodies must have regard as set out in paragraph 33 of Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing), what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* scope is of her Department's study of the level of housing development in the West Midlands; and if she will make a statement. [191561]

Mr. Dhanda: My noble friend Baroness Andrews has asked the Government office for the West Midlands (GOWM) to commission further work to inform the Examination in Public of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2 revision. This study will look at options which could deliver higher housing numbers with a view to improving affordability within the region. The study will be submitted as evidence to the independent panel at the Examination in Public of the Phase 2 RSS revision for testing.

The scope of the study, as stated in the brief for the work, is to develop and appraise alternative options for accommodating housing and associated growth above the levels in the submitted draft Phase 2 RSS Revision. The options should be capable of delivering the levels of housing suggested in the initial National Housing and Planning Advice Unit response to the Housing Green Paper but should maintain as many of the key principles of the RSS as possible.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications for the protection of *(a)* greenfield sites and *(b)* green belt land in the West Midlands of the planned level of housing development (i) set out in the West Midlands Spatial Strategy and (ii) most recently proposed. [191562]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has appointed an independent panel to consider the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2 revision which sets out planned levels of housing development for the West Midlands. In addition, my noble Friend Baroness Andrews has requested the Government office for the West Midlands to commission work to look at housing options which could deliver higher housing numbers than those set out in the Phase 2 Revision.

The implications of both the Phase 2 revision and the options generated through the study on both greenfield sites and green belt land will be issues the Panel will need to consider at Examination. At this stage, it is inappropriate for the Secretary of State to comment on emerging proposals for housing development and the evidence underpinning these in advance of the Examination in Public as these matters need to be independently tested. Furthermore, as the Secretary of State has a statutory role in the issuing of the final RSS, any comments at this stage on the merits of emerging proposals could prejudice her future decision-making role.

Regional Planning and Development: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber next plans to meet Yorkshire Forward to discuss Government funding for transport infrastructure in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if she will make a statement. [192565]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand that my right hon. Friend the Regional Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has already met with Yorkshire Forward on at least four occasions since her appointment on 25 January 2008 and will continue to meet with them on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues relevant to the economic development of the region, including transport.

Tenants: Deposits

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many disputes arising out of secure deposits schemes were taken to court by tenants or their representatives in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192904]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average duration of arbitration on disputes on secure deposit schemes was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192905]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, under the terms of their contacts with my Department, each provider for the Deposit Protection Service must submit a monthly report giving details of performance against key performance indicators. The providers incur penalty points if key targets are not met. Resolution of disputes within stated timescales (currently 28 days) is one of the key performance indicators used in this way. Monthly monitoring returns up to end February 2008 have been received. So far, I can confirm that performance has been good with each scheme delivering in full against the indicator.

Tree Preservation Orders: Appeals

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tree preservation order appeals are under consideration by her Department; and how many are awaiting a site visit. [192724]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* There are approximately 400 appeals against local authority decisions in respect of proposed work to trees protected by tree preservation orders. 300 are currently awaiting a site visit.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the tree preservation order appeal submitted by Ms Sonya Stringer of Christchurch to be determined; and what the reasons are for the time taken for the determination to be completed. [192725]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* An Inspecting Officer will carry out a site visit on 19 March 2008 and a decision on the appeal will be made within 16 weeks of that date. This case has been delayed because not all of the necessary papers were initially available.

Visits: Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has made to each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber since appointment; and if she will make a statement. [192901]

Mr. Dhanda: Since her appointment on 25 January 2008, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber (Caroline Flint) has visited the constituencies listed as follows.

Due to the role of regional Minister, which involves regional or sub-regional meetings, the Minister may not have visited a constituency per se, but attended a meeting held in that area.

The right hon. Member for Doncaster, Central from 27 January to 6 March 2008

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Doncaster, Central	1
City of York	2
Leeds, Central	4
Morley and Rothwell	1
Wakefield	1
Wentworth	1
Bradford, West	1
Bradford, North	1

The right hon. Member for Don Valley from 2 July 2007 to 26 January 2008

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Barnsley, Central	1
Bradford, West	1
City of York	1
Don Valley	4

The right hon. Member for Don Valley from 2 July 2007 to 26 January 2008

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Doncaster, Central	2
Doncaster, North	1
Hull, North	2
Hull, West and Hessle	1
Leeds, Central	3
Rydale	1
Scarborough and Whitby	1
Wakefield	2

Water: Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provides for retrofitting grey water collection and distribution systems to blocks of flats when they are refurbished. [191462]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not provide any specific programmes of support for retrofitting grey water collection and distribution systems to blocks of flats when they are refurbished. In its recently published water strategy for England, "Future Water"

http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/water/strategy/index.htm

the Government undertook to work with others to develop standards for non-potable use so as to develop confidence in these developing technologies. More generally, enhanced capital allowances are available for businesses which purchase rainwater reuse systems and other technologies on the Water Technology List. In addition, new homes built to reach the higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes are likely to install systems for using water from non-potable sources such as rainwater harvesting or grey water recycling.

OLYMPICS

Volunteering

6. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she plans to take to enable students to take part in volunteering programmes for delivery of the 2012 Olympic Games. [192308]

Tessa Jowell: We expect volunteering to be boosted by the profile it will get through the Games, as in Sydney where 50,000 volunteers were a key element of the success. The London Organising Committee estimate that 70,000 volunteers will be involved in the 2012 Games, and their volunteering launch will be in Autumn 2010. It is too early to say what the role of students might be, but 42,000 students volunteer already every year, including in sport.

Media Facilities

7. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with her Chinese counterpart on the provision of media facilities as part of preparations to host the Olympic Games. [192309]

Tessa Jowell: When I met the leaders of the Beijing Organising Committee last year I impressed on them the importance of the free movement of journalists for the 2008 Games, and I discussed China's progress with British journalists based in China. I am very pleased that new regulations to this effect were introduced in China in January. This is very positive, but more needs to be done and we are encouraging China to extend this freedom beyond 2008 and to China's domestic media too, so that it is a real legacy from the Games. I raised this again with senior Chinese representatives visiting London last month.

Developing Countries

8. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for International Development on the participation of developing countries in the 2012 Olympic Games. [192310]

Tessa Jowell: There have been a number of discussions at ministerial and official level with DFID regarding the "International Inspiration" programme.

The programme—which is already under way in India, Zambia, Brazil, Azerbaijan and Palau (in Micronesia)—and to which DFID has already contributed £2 million to date, will ensure there is a real social and sporting legacy from the Games beyond the UK.

I am hopeful that we will expand the programme yet further between now and 2012, subject to funding.

Overseas Spectators

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to promote the 2012 Olympic Games to overseas spectators. [192307]

Tessa Jowell: The handover ceremonies at the end of the Beijing Olympic Games and Paralympic Games this summer provide a starting point for promoting the 2012 Games. They will focus the world's attention on Britain. Visit Britain, UKTI, FCO, and the British Council are working together to promote this opportunity for Britain, alongside Visit London and other London agencies. Visit Britain will engage with the estimated 40,000 global media representatives present in Beijing to promote this country. An estimated 321,000 additional visitors will come to London for the Games. A framework for marketing the UK was published in October by DCMS in "Winning—the tourism strategy for 2012".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female binge drinkers according to the definition of binge drinking used in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. [184044]

Jacqui Smith: I would refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Public Health on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons under the age of 18 years had alcohol seized by Humberside Police in each of the last five years, broken down by division. [189395]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office does not routinely record or hold this information.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the sale of *(a)* exotic animals and *(b)* endangered species; and if she will make a statement. [190882]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

My officials have regular dialogue on the sale of and trade in endangered species with representatives of the trade, wildlife NGOs, other members of the European Community and members of the public.

So far this year, I have met representatives of IFAW, the Born Free Foundation and Wildlife and Countryside Link to discuss wildlife trade.

Animal Welfare: Imports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what legislation the *(a)* import and *(b)* export of (i) exotic animals and (ii) endangered species is regulated; what changes have been made since enactment; and if she will make a statement. [190793]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/07 regulates trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 lays down the detailed rules concerning the implementation of the council regulation and has direct effect in EU member states. The commission regulations are regularly updated and amended following changes agreed by parties to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES). The commission regulations were more recently amended on 4 February by Commission Regulation 100/2008.

Council Directive 92/65 lays down animal health requirements governing trade within, and imports into, the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules. This can include exotic and endangered species, but they are not separately identified. The directive is implemented in England by the Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Similar legislation applies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and it is enforced by local authorities.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* exotic animals and *(b)* endangered species were imported into the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by species. [190794]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Since 1 January 1997, the UK CITES Management Authority received 106,533 applications for imports of endangered species into the UK. I have arranged for a detailed breakdown of the species imported to be placed in the Library of the House.

Asylum

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of failed asylum seekers in the United Kingdom. [192007]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the United Kingdom who are unable to return to their country of origin because they cannot obtain the necessary permission from those countries. [192074]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Assessments

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people currently required to retake Knowledge of Life in the UK tests at each test centre have already been granted citizenship; and if she will make a statement. [191536]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make provision for applicants undertaking the Life in the UK test who speak English as their first language but who have a low level of literacy. [192148]

Mr. Byrne: We are not aware of any particular difficulties being encountered by native English speakers taking the Life in the UK test as a result of low levels of literacy. The pass rate for those who have English as a first language is generally higher than for those who do not.

There are no plans to make specific literacy support available for applicants taking the Life in the UK test as literacy and numeracy programmes are widely available at adult, further education and community colleges. Test centre staff will give appropriate advice to candidates whose competence in language or literacy is felt to be insufficient for them to take the test.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to exclude all inquests relating to deaths in the course of military operations from the powers given to her in the Counter-Terrorism Bill which would allow her to certify that a coroner's inquest be held without a jury. [191865]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to my answers today.

Counter-Terrorism Bill

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from other governments on Part 6 of the Counter-Terrorism Bill. [191866]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

No representations have been received from any other governments on Part 6 of the Counter-Terrorism Bill.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within her Department; and if she will make a statement. [189506]

Mr. Byrne: While there are no plans this year specifically to promote Fairtrade Fortnight, the Home Office encourages suppliers to offer fairtrade products. Items such as chocolate, biscuits and orange juice are available in its staff restaurant and coffee shops. The Department also provides fairtrade tea and coffee at official meetings at some of its key buildings. A fairtrade fair was held in December in 2 Marsham street where staff were able to see and purchase a range of fairtrade products.

Humberside Police

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* police strength and *(b)* budget was for Humberside Police Force in each year since 1997. [192093]

Mr. McNulty: The information is set out in the following table. As the force's budget also supports the employment of all other police personnel the table includes police staff and police community support officers.

Humberside police

	Police officer strength	*Police staff strength*	*Police community support officers*	*Force budget (£ million)*
1996-97	2,045	718	—	103.1
1997-98	2,021	789	—	106.1
1998-99	1,974	840	—	110.0
1999-2000	1,932	840	—	114.3
2000-01	1,917	808	—	118.9
2001-02	2,058	816	—	128.2
2002-03	2,105	854	—	131.6
2003-04	2,213	959	—	142.0
2004-05	2,230	1,026	20	150.4
2005-06	2,224	1,091	20	[1]152.022
2006-07	2,227	1,186	194	158.1
2007-08[2]	2,226	1,268	227	164.9

[1] 2005-06 figures have been adjusted for purposes of comparison with future years following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

[2] Strength as at 30 September 2007.

Immigrants: Domestic Violence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has provided to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* voluntary agencies on women whose insecure immigration status is being assessed on the no recourse to public funds rule in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; if she will bring forward proposals to amend the Act to provide funding for such women; and if she will make a statement. [190051]

Mr. Coaker: In February 2006, guidance and a factsheet were issued to all local authority chief executives alerting them to the key issues experienced by these women and setting out how they can be helped through other legislative processes.

We have also commissioned the development of a step-by-step guide for women in black and minority ethnic communities who are victims of domestic violence. It will provide practical advice on how victims, and agencies supporting victims, can protect themselves and their children. This will be published in spring 2008.

Soon we will be announcing a new scheme where victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be able to have their housing and living costs met linked to indefinite leave to remain (ILR) criteria. The proposals under the new scheme will strengthen the way in which domestic violence cases are considered, enabling those victims who are vulnerable to access further support.

Immigration

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct the Border and Immigration Agency to issue a decision on the application for indefinite leave to remain made by Mr. Wael Hussein (Home Office reference: H1086470). [177615]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 March 2008.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to build new immigration detention centres; and if she will make a statement. [181191]

Mr. Byrne: Yes. As I said in January we will publish proposals during the course of 2008.

Internet: Regulation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to improve the regulation of the internet. [188323]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not directly regulate the internet as the internet is subject to UK law and we take the view that what is illegal offline is illegal online.

The Home Office set up the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2006 to help protect children online and also works closely with the internet industry through the Home Secretary's task force on online child protection to ensure a safe internet for children.

In September 2007, the Prime Minister announced a review into the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content in video games and online. The review will also assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate content.

Dr. Tanya Byron is conducting this review and will report to Ministers in March 2008. The Home Office looks forward to hearing the recommendations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 177566, tabled on 7 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Southend, West; what the reasons are for the time taken in replying; and if she will make a statement. [186298]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 February 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 20 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 795W. The Department makes every effort to answer Members questions within the timescales set. However, this is not always possible.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 4 February from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent (ref H1127502/M16935/7). [191897]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 3 March.

Police: Interpreters

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average retention rates were of interpreters working for police services in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the proportion of their working weeks which are spent by police-employed interpreters interpreting between police officers and members of the public. [186128]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Nottinghamshire

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Nottinghamshire constabulary in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [187308]

Mr. McNulty: The available data for Nottinghamshire constabulary are given in the following table.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] in Nottinghamshire police force area as at 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2007

Police force	*31 March 1997*	*30 September 2007[3]*
Nottinghamshire police	2,323	2,400

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent 'excludes' those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the number of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards, used here, are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police: Political Campaigns

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to police officers on participating in party political *(a)* campaigns and *(b)* literature in uniform. [192321]

Mr. McNulty: Regulation 6 of the Police Regulations 2003 as amended by The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2004 states that:

> "a member of a police force shall at all times abstain from any activity which is likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of his duties or which is likely to give rise to the impression among members of the public that it may so interfere. A member of a police force shall in particular not take any active part in politics".

No guidance has been issued to police forces on the interpretation of these provisions.

Police: Recruitment

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of recruiting and training a new police officer in England and Wales was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187428]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Sexual Offences: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offences against a minor were committed by individuals with a previous conviction for a sexual offence in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and in how many of those cases the offender was a family member, a friend or otherwise well-known to the victim. [187487]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The Ministry of Justice collates and publishes data on the re-offending rate of offenders discharged from custody or commencing a community sentence. These data show re-offending rates by the offence for which the offender has previously been sentenced (the index offence). The re-offending rate covers convictions for all subsequent offences, not just sexual offences, so the re-offending data requested are not available.

Information about victims of sex offenders, such as their relationship to the perpetrator, is not collected centrally.

Surveillance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans her Department has to issue revised guidance to local authorities on their use of surveillance and the interception of communications; [191672]

(2) which local authorities recruited covert human intelligence sources in 2006-07; [191673]

(3) which local authorities were *(a)* authorised to acquire and *(b)* acquired communications data in 2006. [191674]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is revising the Codes of Practice for Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources in 2008. This will give practical guidance to public authorities as to their responsibilities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Local authorities are not permitted to intercept communications under RIPA.

We do hold a central database of all covert human intelligence sources recruited by Public authorities as all local authorities have the ability under RIPA to recruit covert human intelligence sources; these activities are overseen by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner.

Public authorities able to obtain communications data using the provisions of section 22 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 are set out in section 25(1) of that Act and in orders made under section 25(1)(g). Those orders are the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) Order 2003 (Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3172), the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Amendment) Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1083) and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Additional Functions and Amendment) Order 2006 (Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 1878).

Terrorism: Stop and Search

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times Ministers have given stop and search authorisation under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [175239]

Jacqui Smith: The Terrorism Act 2000 came into effect on 19 February 2001.

Information on stop and searches and resultant arrests under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (latest available) is given in the following table. These are the most recent figures.

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000[2] and resultant arrests[3], England and Wales, 2001-02—2005-06

	Stop and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism		
	Total searches	Resultant arrests[3]	Percentage of arrests
2001-02	10,200	189	2
2002-03	32,100	380	1
2003-04	33,800	491	1
2004-05[4]	37,000	468	1
2005-06	50,000	563	1

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants.

[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.

[3] Includes arrests under the Terrorism Act, arrests for terrorist related matters and other serious crimes.

[4] Figures updated since publication of the 2004-05 Bulletin.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police officers. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Vandalism: Buses

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests were made under Operation Bus Tag in each of the last five years; [181478]

(2) how many people were charged as a result of evidence gathered under Operation Bus Tag in each of the last five years. [181480]

Mr. Coaker: The following information has been supplied by the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

The number of those arrested under Operation Bus Tag, to late January, are:

	Number
29 November 2004 to 31 March 2005	108
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	485
1 April 2006 to 31 march 2007	976
1 April 2007 to present	819

Total arrests since introduction equals 2,419.

Many of those arrested by Operation Bus Tag are first time offending juveniles, therefore in many instances the means of disposal could be by juvenile reprimand or caution and not charge. The available figures indicated that between 2004 and 2006 there were 344 charges, and between 2006 and late January there have been 917 charges, though this figure indicates the number of charges not necessarily the number of persons charged.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18 to 25 and *(c)* 25 to 29 were (i) admitted as an in-patient or (ii) treated as an out-patient with alcohol poisoning in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last three years. [193164]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on the reasons for out-patient attendances are not collected centrally. The following table shows the total finished admissions to providers in Lancashire in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol poisoning at the start of his/her stay—for under 18, 18 to 24 and 25 to 29 in the years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS

	Lancashire providers		
	Under 18	*18 to 24*	*25 to 29*
2006-07	86	220	146
2005-06	118	206	98
2004-05	108	178	106

Notes:

Lancashire Providers

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has supplied provider data using:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

Calderstones NHS Trust

Lancashire Care NHS Trust

Finished admission episodes (FAE)

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

All Diagnoses count of Mentions

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes Used:

T51: Toxic effect of Alcohol

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 14, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* 16 to 18 years were treated as out-patients in accident and emergency wards in Lancashire as a result of binge drinking in each of the last three years. [193166]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 14, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* 16 to 18 years were admitted to hospitals in Lancashire as a result of binge drinking in each of the last three years. [193167]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Antibiotics: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department is spending on *(a)* fees for the design of marketing materials, *(b)* other fees to consultants, *(c)* printing costs, *(d)* distribution costs, *(e)* staff costs and *(f)* any other costs for the campaign on the unnecessary use of antibiotics to be launched in February 2008. [179126]

Ann Keen: Final costs are not yet available, however the following costs were estimated on 14 January 2008 and are subject to change:

	Estimated costs (£)
Fees for the design of the marketing material	75,000
Consultant costs	0
Printing	50,000
Distribution	23,000
Other specific staff costs	0
Net media costs of campaign including the cost of research and costs of staff at the central office of information	440,000

Basildon and Thurrock Hospital: Medical Treatments

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of stroke victims from within Thurrock admitted to Basildon and Thurrock Hospital received a brain scan within 24 hours of admission to hospital in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [190633]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who might be able to provide this information.

The new "National Stroke Strategy", announced in December 2007, will modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke across England. The strategy emphasises the need to improve access to scans and stipulates that brain imaging should be performed in the next scan slot, or within 60 minutes of request out of hours. We are asking all local stroke networks to ensure that any patient who could benefit from urgent care is transferred to an acute stroke centre that provides 24-hour access to scans and other specialist stroke care.

We have fully costed the proposals in the strategy, and this will be reflected in the allocation that goes to primary care trusts for next year. In addition, we have committed new central funds totalling £105 million over the next three years. Some of that new funding will be used to develop demonstration sites for acute services that will enable us not only to show a step change in service provision in those areas, but also to provide lessons that can be shared. The £105 million is central funding—on top of money going into the national health service to support this change.

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W, on cancer, what the host NHS organisation is for each cancer network. [184466]

Ann Keen: The following table lists each cancer network and its host national health service organisation:

Cancer network	*Host NHS organisation*
Derby Burton	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Leicestershire Northamptonshire and Rutland	Leicestershire and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT)
Mid Trent	Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
South East London	Lambeth PCT
North East London	London Strategic Health Authority (SHA)
South West London	Merton PCT
North London	Barnet PCT
West London	London SHA
North of England	Northumberland Care Trust
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	Christie Hospital NHS Trust
Lancashire and Cumbria	Blackpool PCT
Merseyside and Cheshire	Wirral PCT
Thames Valley	South Central SHA
Central South Coast	South Central SHA
Kent	West Kent PCT
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	Surrey PCT
Sussex	Brighton and Hove City Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Avon Somerset and Wiltshire	Bristol PCT
Three Counties	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Dorset	Bournemouth and Poole PCT
Peninsula	Torbay Care Trust
Arden	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT
Greater Midlands	Wolverhampton City PCT
Pan Birmingham	West Midlands SHA
Yorkshire and Humber Coast	Calderdale PCT
North Trent	Barnsley PCT
Yorkshire	Lanbaurgh PCT
Essex	Mid Essex PCT
Anglia	East of England SHA
Mount Vernon	West Hertfordshire PCT

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was between referral and treatment for NHS cancer patients in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [192262]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times between urgent referral and treatment for cancer are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment was introduced for all patients from December 2005. Statistics showing overall performance are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/index.htm

Performance against this standard for the last period for which figures are available (October, November and December 2007) show the following performance levels for health care organisations in Devon.

Organisation	*Performance (Percentage)*
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	94.3
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	96.1
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	96.7
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	98.8

For the same period the England performance was 97.1 per cent.

Care Homes: Elderly

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the extent of *(a)* changes to the provision of local authority social care for the elderly and *(b)* changes in eligibility criteria for such care in the last 24 months; [191644]

(2) what the full terms of reference are of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's review of the eligibility tests for social care for the elderly. [191675]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made no estimate of the extent of changes to the provision of local authority social care for older people or the changes in eligibility criteria for such care in the last 24 months. This is why we have asked the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) to carry out a review of eligibility criteria and report back to the Government later this year. Until the review is completed, we will be unable to estimate the extent of changes to the provision of local authority social care.

The terms of reference for the CSCI review of eligibility tests for social care for older people are:

> In the context of the government's vision for adult social care, "Putting People First", to undertake a review of the criteria for fair access to care services, their application by councils with social services responsibilities and their impact on people;
>
> To make recommendations to me on the findings from the review; and
>
> To engage the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Local Government Association and other relevant stakeholders in the process of the review.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department of Health published a Single Equality Scheme on 4 December 2006. This scheme set out how the Department intended to meet its general equality duties under the Race Relations Act 1976, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. In addition, it outlined the action it would take towards equality in relation to age, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

In June 2007, the Department published a revised Single Equality Scheme. The Department is currently working towards a further revised scheme. This scheme will include a report on progress so far against the existing scheme, and a plan for further action.

Genetics: Insurance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the concordat and moratorium of genetics and insurance. [190500]

Dawn Primarolo: The concordat and moratorium on genetics and insurance was announced in a written ministerial statement given by the former Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), on 14 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 5WS. It is a high level agreement between the Government and the Association of British Insurers on the use of predictive genetic test results for insurance purposes.

The moratorium on insurers' use of predictive genetic test dating from 1 November 2001 was extended by five years until 1 November 2011.

Health Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacists in (i) England and (ii) each English region who were (A) men and (B) women (1) under 40, (2) between 40 and 55 and (3) over 55 years old in each of the last three years. [191506]

Ann Keen: Information on general practitioners (GPs) is shown in the following Table 1 and Table 1a.

The number and percentage of national health service dentists in England, by gender and by age band, as at 31 March 2007 is shown in Table 2. This information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA). This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006 and is a count of the number of dentists on open NHS contracts as at 31 March 2007.

The number of NHS dentists in England as at 31 March 2006, by age band and by gender is provided in table five of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". A breakdown by SHA is not available for this period. This report, published on 23 August 2006 is available in the Library and is also available at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Table six of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report 2006" provides information on the number of NHS dentists in England and includes the number as at 31 March 2005. This information is provided by gender. A further breakdown by age band, and by SHA is not available.

Information on the number and percentage of ophthalmic practitioners in England is provided in table three of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2006" report. The information is provided as at 31 December, 1996 to 2006. The information is provided by gender. This report was published on 31 July 2007 and is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-ophthalmic-services:-workforce-statistics-for-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-december-2006

Information on the number of ophthalmic practitioners in England as at 31 December 2006 is also provided in Annex three, table three, of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce" report. This information is provided by gender and by primary care trust (PCT). Information by SHA is not currently available at this time due to the need to exclude duplicates who may appear in the totals for more than one PCT, at an SHA level.

Age band level data for ophthalmic practitioners is not currently available.

Information on pharmacy staff is shown in Table 3.

Table 1: GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) as at 2004-06, numbers by age, region and gender

		Under 40 years			*40-55 years*			*Over 55 years*			*Total*		
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Male												
	England	3,727	3,658	3,647	11,161	11,170	11,056	4,400	4,769	4,838	19,288	19,597	19,541
Q30	North East	216	203	212	608	613	633	212	230	224	1,036	1,046	1,069
Q31	North West	578	525	528	1,464	1,474	1,457	619	665	670	2,661	2,664	2,655
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	370	374	372	1,195	1,207	1,175	441	468	487	2,006	2,049	2,034
Q33	East Midlands	338	344	335	984	978	985	278	310	316	1,600	1,632	1,636
Q34	West Midlands	384	398	411	1,132	1,142	1,125	568	601	600	2,084	2,141	2,136
Q35	East of England	383	378	377	1,315	1,311	1,302	450	497	520	2,148	2,186	2,199
Q36	London	465	476	442	1,249	1,241	1,200	870	913	942	2,584	2,630	2,584
Q37	South East Coast	280	263	271	938	942	931	333	365	387	1,551	1,570	1,589
Q38	South Central	278	270	267	864	836	826	267	308	319	1,409	1,414	1,412
Q39	South West	435	427	432	1,412	1,426	1,422	362	412	373	2,209	2,265	2,227
	Female												
	England	4,649	4,916	4,978	6,445	6,937	7,215	1,141	1,283	1,356	12,235	13,136	13,549
Q30	North East	288	295	324	321	349	377	33	35	45	642	679	746
Q31	North West	590	617	659	820	859	903	143	171	175	1,553	1,647	1,737
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	482	519	506	653	695	741	93	108	105	1,228	1,322	1,352
Q33	East Midlands	383	383	363	459	500	506	51	58	65	893	941	934
Q34	West Midlands	418	437	432	586	642	665	128	137	157	1,132	1,216	1,254
Q35	East of England	421	455	449	701	752	788	115	117	132	1,237	1,324	1,369
Q36	London	782	837	830	976	1,043	1,060	353	385	393	2,111	2,265	2,283
Q37	South East Coast	379	403	400	520	572	598	81	96	97	980	1,071	1,095
Q38	South Central	359	394	431	616	648	674	73	86	94	1,048	1,128	1,199
Q39	South West	547	576	584	793	877	903	71	90	93	1,411	1,543	1,580
	All GPs												
	England	8,376	8,574	8,625	17,606	18,107	18,271	5,541	6,052	6,194	31,523	32,733	33,090
Q30	North East	504	498	536	929	962	1,010	245	265	269	1,678	1,725	1,815
Q31	North West	1,168	1,142	1,187	2,284	2,333	2,360	762	836	845	4,214	4,311	4,392
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	852	893	878	1,848	1,902	1,916	534	576	592	3,234	3,371	3,386

Table 1: GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) as at 2004-06: numbers by age, region and gender

		Under 40 years			*40-55 years*			*Over 55 years*			*Total*		
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Q33	East Midlands	721	727	698	1,443	1,478	1,491	329	368	381	2,493	2,573	2,570
Q34	West Midlands	802	835	843	1,718	1,784	1,790	696	738	757	3,216	3,357	3,390
Q35	East of England	804	833	826	2,016	2,063	2,090	565	614	652	3,385	3,510	3,568
Q36	London	1,247	1,313	1,272	2,225	2,284	2,260	1,223	1,298	1,335	4,695	4,895	4,867
Q37	South East Coast	659	666	671	1,458	1,514	1,529	414	461	484	2,531	2,641	2,684
Q38	South Central	637	664	698	1,480	1,484	1,500	340	394	413	2,457	2,542	2,611
Q39	South West	982	1,003	1,016	2,205	2,303	2,325	433	502	466	3,620	3,808	3,807

Notes:

1. General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others.
2. Five GP ages were returned unknown in 2005 and one in 2006, these have been excluded from the data.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Table 1a: GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) as at 2004-06: percentages by age, region and gender

		Under 40 years			*40-55 years*			*Over 55 years*			*Total*		
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Male GPs												
	England	19.3	18.7	18.7	57.9	57.0	56.6	22.8	24.3	24.8	—	—	—
Q30	North East	20.8	19.4	19.8	58.7	58.6	59.2	20.5	22.0	21.0	—	—	—
Q31	Northwest	21.7	19.7	19.9	55.0	55.3	54.9	23.3	25.0	25.2	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	18.4	18.3	18.3	59.6	58.9	57.8	22.0	22.8	23.9	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands	21.1	21.1	20.5	61.5	59.9	60.2	17.4	19.0	19.3	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands	18.4	18.6	19.2	54.3	53.3	52.7	27.3	28.1	28.1	—	—	—
Q35	East of England	17.8	17.3	17.1	61.2	60.0	59.2	20.9	22.7	23.6	—	—	—
Q36	London	18.0	18.1	17.1	48.3	47.2	46.4	33.7	34.7	36.5	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast	18.1	16.8	17.1	60.5	60.0	58.6	21.5	23.2	24.4	—	—	—
Q38	South Central	19.7	19.1	18.9	61.3	59.1	58.5	18.9	21.8	22.6	—	—	—
Q39	South West	19.7	18.9	19.4	63.9	63.0	63.9	16.4	18.2	16.7	—	—	—
	Female GPs												
	England	38.0	37.4	36.7	52.7	52.8	53.3	9.3	9.8	10.0	—	—	—
Q30	North East	44.9	43.4	43.4	50.0	51.4	50.5	5.1	5.2	6.0	—	—	—
Q31	North West	38.0	37.5	37.9	52.8	52.2	52.0	9.2	10.4	10.1	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	39.3	39.3	37.4	53.2	52.6	54.8	7.6	8.2	7.8	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands	42.9	40.7	38.9	51.4	53.1	54.2	5.7	6.2	7.0	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands	36.9	35.9	34.4	51.8	52.8	53.0	11.3	11.3	12.5	—	—	—
Q35	East of England	34.0	34.4	32.8	56.7	56.8	57.6	9.3	8.8	9.6	—	—	—
Q36	London	37.0	37.0	36.4	46.2	46.0	46.4	16.7	17.0	17.2	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast	38.7	37.6	36.5	53.1	53.4	54.6	8.3	9.0	8.9	—	—	—
Q38	South Central	34.3	35.0	35.9	58.8	57.4	56.2	7.0	7.6	7.8	—	—	—
Q39	South West	38.8	37.4	37.0	56.2	56.8	57.2	5.0	5.8	5.9	—	—	—
	All GPs												
	England	26.6	26.2	26.1	55.9	55.3	55.2	17.6	18.5	18.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q30	North East	30.0	28.9	29.5	55.4	55.8	55.6	14.6	15.4	14.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q31	North West	27.7	26.5	27.0	54.2	54.1	53.7	18.1	19.4	19.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	26.3	26.5	25.9	57.1	56.4	56.6	16.5	17.1	17.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q33	East Midlands	28.9	28.3	27.2	57.9	57.4	58.0	13.2	14.3	14.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q34	West Midlands	24.9	24.9	24.9	53.4	53.1	52.8	21.6	22.0	22.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q35	East of England	23.8	23.7	23.2	59.6	58.8	58.6	16.7	17.5	18.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q36	London	26.6	26.8	26.1	47.4	46.7	46.4	26.0	26.5	27.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q37	South East Coast	26.0	25.2	25.0	57.6	57.3	57.6	16.4	17.5	18.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1a: GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) as at 2004-06: percentages by age, region and gender

		Under 40 years			*40-55 years*			*Over 55 years*			*Total*		
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Q38	Central	25.9	26.1	26.7	60.2	58.4	57.4	13.8	15.5	15.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q39	South West	27.1	26.3	26.7	60.9	60.5	61.1	12.0	13.2	12.2	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:
1. General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others. 2. Five GP ages were returned unknown in 2005 and one in 2006, these have been excluded from percentage calculations.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 2: Number and percentage of dentists on an open NHS contract by specific age bands in SHA areas in England as at 31 March 2007

		Under 40 years		*40 to 54 years*		*55 years and over*		*Total*	
		No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
	Male NHS dentists								
	England	5,016	39.2	5,457	42.6	2,337	18.2	12,810	100
Q30	North East SHA	289	46.2	247	39.5	89	14.2	625	100
Q31	North West SHA	719	39.1	846	46.0	273	14.9	1,838	100
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	516	41.5	533	42.8	195	15.7	1,244	100
Q39	East Midlands SHA	445	41.7	430	40.3	193	18.1	1,068	100
Q34	West Midlands SHA	545	42.8	503	39.5	226	17.7	1,274	100
Q35	East of England SHA	582	37.1	700	44.6	288	18.3	1,570	100
Q36	London SHA	1,023	45.0	855	37.6	394	17.3	2,272	100
Q37	South East Coast SHA	446	34.9	573	44.8	259	20.3	1,278	100
Q38	South Central SHA	405	39.4	442	43.0	181	17.6	1,028	100
Q39	South West SHA	501	35.8	594	42.5	304	21.7	1,399	100
	Female NHS dentists								
	England	5,004	60.8	2,705	32.9	522	6.3	8,231	100
Q30	North East SHA	271	67.6	121	30.2	9	2.2	401	100
Q31	North West SHA	662	58.4	408	36.0	64	5.6	1,134	100
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	440	58.9	262	35.1	45	6.0	747	100
Q33	East Midlands SHA	384	62.1	196	31.7	38	6.1	618	100
Q34	West Midlands SHA	501	62.2	261	32.4	43	5.3	805	100
Q35	East of England SHA	599	64.3	280	30.0	53	5.7	932	100
Q36	London SHA	1,091	69.5	389	24.8	89	5.7	1,569	100
Q37	South East Coast SHA	476	55.3	316	36.7	69	8.0	861	100
Q38	South Central SHA	461	60.2	247	32.2	58	7.6	766	100
Q39	South West SHA	509	57.6	311	35.2	64	7.2	884	100
	All NHS dentists								
	England	10,020	47.6	8,162	38.8	2,859	13.6	21,041	100
Q30	North East SHA	560	54.6	368	35.9	98	9.6	1,026	100
Q31	North West SHA	1,381	46.5	1,254	42.2	337	11.3	2,972	100
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	956	48.0	795	39.9	240	12.1	1,991	100
Q33	East Midlands SHA	829	49.2	626	37.1	231	13.7	1,686	100
Q34	West Midlands SHA	1,046	50.3	764	36.7	269	12.9	2,079	100
Q35	East of England SHA	1,181	47.2	980	39.2	341	13.6	2,502	100
Q36	London SHA	2,114	55.0	1,244	32.4	483	12.6	3,841	100
Q37	South East Coast SHA	922	43.1	889	41.6	328	15.3	2,139	100
Q38	South Central SHA	866	48.3	689	38.4	239	13.3	1,794	100
Q39	South West SHA	1,010	44.2	905	39.6	368	16.1	2,283	100

Notes:
1. A dentist is defined as someone who has been set up on the Dental Services Division Payments online system by the PCT to work under an open contract during the relevant time period. Data provided are a count of the individuals listed as performers on open contracts within a PCT, including orthodontists.
2. Dentists will be counted more than once if they have contracts in more than one SHA. England totals exclude duplication.
3. Data consists of dentists in general dental services, Personal Dental Services and trust-led dental services (TDS).
4. Data as per report run by the NHS Business Services Authority DSD on 3 August 2007.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 3: NHS hospital and community health services: pharmacy staff in England by level as at 30 September each specified year

	1997	*2005*	*2006*	*Change 1997-2006*	*Percentage change 1997-2006*	*Change 2005-06*	*Percentage change 2005-06*
Headcount							
England	9,771	16,902	16,858	7,087	73	-44	-0.3

Table 3: NHS hospital and community health services: pharmacy staff in England by level as at 30 September each specified year

	1997	*2005*	*2006*	*Change 1997-2006*	*Percentage change 1997-2006*	*Change 2005-06*	*Percentage change 2005-06*
Qualified pharmacy staff	8,491	13,595	13,536	5,045	59	-59	-0.4
Consultant therapist/scientist	n/a	9	12	12	n/a	3	33.3
Manager	201	493	572	371	185	79	16.0
Scientist	3,516	5,925	5,859	2,343	67	-66	-1.1
Scientific Officer	452	767	717	265	59	-50	-6.5
Technician	4,322	6,401	6,376	2,054	48	-25	-0.4
Unqualified pharmacy staff	1,280	3,307	3,322	2,042	160	15	0.5
Assistant practitioner	n/a	6	9	9	n/a	3	50.0
Student/trainee	198	582	535	337	170	-47	-8.1
Helper/assistant	1,082	2,719	2,778	1,696	157	59	2.2
Full-time equivalent							
England	8,701	14,818	14,825	6,124	70	7	0.0
Qualified pharmacy staff	7,591	11,900	11,902	4,311	57	2	0.0
Consultant therapist/scientist	n/a	6	8	8	n/a	2	45.1
Manager	190	441	513	324	170	72	16.5
Scientist	3,177	5,119	5,090	1,913	60	-29	-0.6
Scientific Officer	434	733	681	247	57	-52	-7.1
Technician	3,790	5,602	5,610	1,820	48	8	0.1
Unqualified pharmacy staff	1,111	2,918	2,922	1,811	163	4	0.2
Assistant practitioner	n/a	5	8	8	n/a	3	50.2
Student/trainee	194	568	524	330	171	-44	-7.8
Helper/assistant	917	2,344	2,390	1,473	161	46	2.0

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1020W, what the value of outstanding claims against other member states from 2006-07 is, broken down by member state. [188511]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with European Commission Regulations, the national health service treats a large number of European Economic Area (EEA) patients every year, either as temporary visitors requiring treatment while visiting the United Kingdom or as clinical referrals from their home member state. This, coupled with the lag between the provision of treatment, the collation of the claim data and the often lengthy process of reviewing and then accepting or rejecting a claim by another member state, means it is normal practice for EEA countries (including the UK) to have outstanding claims. The UK regularly liaises with the authorities of other member states to resolve matters around outstanding claims.

The available information on outstanding claims against other member states to date for the claim years 2006 and 2007 is set out as follows. This is a snapshot of the current amount owed to the UK, based on claims submitted to date.

Claim year[1]	*Outstanding claim amounts*[2]
2006	
Austria	169,029.56
Belgium	296,877.36
France	211,754.56
Germany	953,821.69
Greece	45,443.44
Italy	131,286.00
Portugal	6,253.92
Spain	2,493,986.28
Sweden	195,782.44
Switzerland	50,726.24
Total	4,554,961.49
2007	
Austria	14,673.00
Cyprus	382.00
Greece	77,588.24
Italy	147,251.00
Netherlands	6,691.00
Portugal	12,887.00
Spain	65,005.00
Total	324,477.24

[1] Under EU Regulations actual claims submitted are made on basis of calendar year.

[2] Based on claims submitted to date.

Hearing Impaired: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for patients with hearing and balance disorders to receive treatment in the latest period for which figures are available. [190458]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not currently collect these data.

From April 2008, the Department will collect information on waits for direct access audiology treatment for patients who are referred directly to audiologists or clinical scientists in audiological medicine. Patients referred for surgical or medical consultant-led care are already covered by the target of treatment within 18 weeks of referral by December 2008.

Hospitals: Food

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to require *(a)* NHS hospitals, *(b)* private sector hospitals, *(c)* nursing homes, *(d)* residential homes and *(e)* other institutions to act upon the Food Standards Agency's guidance in respect of food provision for (i) older people and (ii) adults in institutions; and what the existing requirements are. [191361]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be responsible for regulating health and adult social care services.

It is our intention that providers of regulated services will need to meet a set of requirements, in order to gain and keep registration, including that of ensuring adequate nutrition for patients and service users. The CQC will develop and consult on the criteria it will use to assess compliance with the requirements.

We would expect the CQC to take account of relevant guidance, including that issued by the Food Standards Agency, in developing its criteria around nutrition. The CQC will make use of its sanctions and enforcement powers where it considers any services are unacceptably poor.

Liver Diseases: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18 to 25 and *(c)* 25 to 29 were diagnosed with liver disease in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last three years. [193165]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the total finished admissions to providers in Lancashire in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcoholic liver disease at the start of his/her stay—for under 18, 18 to 24 and 25 to 29 in the years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS

	Lancashire providers		
	Under 18	*18 to 24*	*25 to 29*
2006-07	0	12	28
2005-06	*	*	27
2004-05	0	0	30

Notes:

Lancashire Providers

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has supplied provider data using:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

Calderstones NHS Trust

Lancashire Care NHS Trust

Finished admission episodes (FAE)

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

All diagnoses count of mentions

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes Used:

K70: Alcohol liver disease

Low numbers

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* C. difficile infection in (i) England and (ii) each English region resulted in death in each of the last three years. [191505]

Ann Keen: The requested information on the percentage of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*) cases which led to death is not available as the surveillance system does not record outcomes.

The total number of reports of *C. difficile* infection and MRSA bacteraemia for England are collected via the mandatory surveillance system operated for the

Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). This information is available in the Library and also on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

The Office for National Statistics publishes analyses of deaths in England and Wales where MRSA or *C. difficile* is mentioned on the death certificate but these data do not indicate if the infection was acquired in hospital or elsewhere. The most recent data is published in "Health Statistics Quarterly 37" spring 2008:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ37.pdf

Midwives: Peterborough Primary Care Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in the Peterborough primary care trust area and predecessor trust area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [192606]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The number of deliveries by primary care trust (PCT) can be provided but it is not possible to provide the number of full-time equivalent midwives by PCT.

Number of deliveries per full-time equivalent midwife in the NHS Hospital trusts in the Peterborough area in each year since 2001

NHS trust	*Number of deliveries*[1]
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
2006-07	3,743
2005-06	3,485
2004-05	3,551
2003-04	3,440
2002-03	3,324
2001-02	3,275
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[2]	
2006-07	5,693
2005-06	5,795
2004-05	5,002
2003-04	5,003
2002-03	4,652
2001-02	4,586

[1] The number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with an episode type of 2 (Delivery episode) or 5 (other delivery event). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. The number of deliveries is not the same as the number of births, as some deliveries result in multiple births.

[2] Addenbrooke's NHS Trust prior to 2004.

Sources:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)
2. The Information Centre for health and social care
3. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions: Shipley

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions in Shipley constituency. [191589]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Bradford and Airedale PCT.

NHS: Public Order Offences

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18 to 25, *(c)* 25 to 29 and *(d)* over 29 years were refused treatment for being drunk and disorderly in Lancashire hospitals in each of the last three years. [193168]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide funding for local involvement networks to establish regional and national networks to monitor cancer networks, mental health services, ambulance services and other health services commissioned regionally and nationally. [190255]

Ann Keen: While local involvement networks (LINks) will be independent and will have the power to develop their own priorities and agendas, they will need to develop relationships with a number of stakeholders to fulfil their statutory role effectively.

In certain circumstances, LINks may want to work in partnership to monitor services provided by, for example, cancer networks, mental health services or ambulance trusts, across more than one local authority boundary. LINks may also wish to work together in regional groups, or even nationally to share experience and findings. There is nothing to prevent LINks using some of their funding to establish local, regional or national networks if they so wish.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to encourage people to become organ donors over the last five years. [189984]

Ann Keen: "Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England" published in 2003 and the "National Service Framework for Renal Services" published in 2004 set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. A copy of both reports are available in the Library. Over the last five years, departmental funding (of £4.16 million in 2006-07), has supported a number of hospital based initiatives to increase donor rates such as donor liaison nurses, live donor co-ordinators, new non heart beating donor programmes and additional transplant co-ordinators and media campaigns. To build on these initiatives; the

Organ Donation Taskforce was established in 2006 to identify the barriers to donation and action to take to increase donor rates. On 16 January 2008, the Government accepted the taskforce recommendations and made £11 million extra funding available to support implementation from 2008-09.

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report,* column 1202W, to the hon. Member for Tyne Bridge (Mr. Clelland), on prostate cancer, at which sites focusing on cancer information prescriptions were trialled; what the outcomes of such trials were; and if he will make a statement. [192238]

Ann Keen: There are four information prescription pilots that provide cancer information; County Durham Primary Care Trust working with Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust working with Macmillan Cancer Support, CancerBACUP and Cancer UK, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust working with the Mid Trent Cancer Network and the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust working with South West London Cancer Network and CancerBACUP.

These pilots are among 20 information prescription pilots that have developed and delivered information prescriptions in different ways over the past year. A full evaluation report of all the information prescription pilots will be published in spring 2008.

Specialist Palliative and Neurological Care: Shipley

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Shipley constituency. [191587]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Shipley constituency. [191588]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCTs, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through Yorkshire and the Humber SHA.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Business Appointments Advisory Committee

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments' annual report for 2006-07 to be published. [191059]

Edward Miliband: The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments intends to publish its ninth report covering the two-year period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008. It is planned to be published before the summer recess.

Government Departments: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's data sharing programme. [191177]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Service Transformation Agreement (STA) published on 8 October 2007 is the implementation plan by which Government will deliver services that are better for customers, better for staff and better for the taxpayer. Fundamental to that is using the information we have to better effect. This work is continuing and it is too early to assess its effectiveness.

On 25 October the Prime Minister asked Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport to carry out an independent review of the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors. In addition, on 21 November, the Prime Minister asked the Cabinet Secretary to work with Departments to ensure that they, and all agencies, check their procedures for the storage and use of data.

The Government will shortly launch a consultation on recommendations to enhance the Information Commissioner's powers and for new penalties related to the Data Protection Act.

The review's recommendations, together with the results of the consultation, will be taken into consideration when decisions are made on strengthening data sharing and protection.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Resignations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS, how many of the special advisers in post on 22 November 2007 have since *(a)* resigned and *(b)* given notice of their intention to resign. [191041]

Edward Miliband: Since 2003, the Government have updated the names and numbers of special advisers by way of an annual statement. The Government intend to publish the statement for 2007-08 before the summer recess.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W, on 1 Carlton Gardens, what the reasons were for the time taken by the right hon. Member for Derby South to vacate 1 Carlton Gardens after ceasing to be a Minister; [189579]

(2) whether the right hon. Member for Derby, South was charged *(a)* rent, *(b)* council tax and *(c)* utility bill costs whilst she occupied 1 Carlton Gardens after ceasing to be a Minister in June 2007. [189580]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) was given a reasonable amount of time to make arrangements to move to another property. During this period, she continued to pay tax on ancillary services associated with the flat, which are provided for use in the private part of the accommodation and which constitute a taxable benefit in kind.

Caribbean: Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK Government officials will accompany HRH Prince of Wales during his visit to the Caribbean in March; and which of these will be accommodated on the Leander. [190922]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Staff from our high commissions in Port of Spain, Castries and Kingston and the Governor's Office in Montserrat will participate in various engagements during the visit. None of them will be accommodated on the Leander.

Cuba

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings have taken place between representatives of the Government and the Cuban government in the last two years; and whether he plans to meet the new President of that country. [192607]

Meg Munn: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office meet regularly with their counterparts both in the Cuban Government in Havana and Cuban embassy in London. In addition my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney), the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, met Cuban Minister of Trade, Antonio Carricarte on 30 April 2007. I met with the Cuban Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation, headed by Jamie Crombert, on 13 November 2007. Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister, Eumelio Caballero is due to visit the UK next month. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to meet the new Cuban President.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191489]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the Annex pertaining to my department in meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm 7227).

The conclusions of our zero based review informed the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement, as part of which we identified scope to achieve £144 million of cash-releasing, sustained Value for Money savings in 2010-11.

We have published our Value for Money Delivery Agreement, which sets out how these gains will be achieved, and will report on progress in our Autumn Performance Report. The FCO's CSR07 Value for Money Delivery Agreement has been published on our website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/CSR07%20VfM%20 Delivery%20Agreement.pdf.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190673]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is fully committed to the Disability Equality Duty and the promotion of disability equality in the way it develops policy, employs staff and delivers services.

In the last year the FCO has made considerable progress in widening the scope and strengthening the effectiveness of its Disability Equality Scheme, in direct response to feedback and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including disabled people and the former Disability Rights Commission. A revised Disability Scheme and Action Plan will be published shortly.

The FCO recognises the need for strong and effective governance in this area and has mandated a senior level Steering Group, chaired by me as the FCO's Equality Minister, to ensure the FCO is effective in meeting all of its obligations under the relevant public sector equality duties.

The FCO published its first Annual Review of Diversity in March 2008 and it summarises where we have made progress and where we need to further improve. A detailed update of progress against the Disability Equality Scheme and its associated Action Plan is planned for publication in April 2008.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185275]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office devolves responsibility for the purchase and safekeeping of these items to its directorates and posts overseas. Consequently it is not possible to provide the details and outcome of every reported incident of loss or theft worldwide without incurring disproportionate cost.

Confirmed losses are subject to formal write-off procedures. There have been none in relation to personal digital assistants in the last five years.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184327]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office devolves responsibility for the purchase and safekeeping of these items to its directorates and posts overseas. Consequently it is not possible to provide the details and outcome of every reported incident of loss or theft worldwide without incurring disproportionate cost.

A review of the arrangements for the purchase, management and disposal of laptops and other mobile devices is in progress, with a view to establishing what additional mechanisms should be implemented to enhance the central system of control.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191520]

Meg Munn: The number of people over the age of 55 who were recruited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each of the last three years is provided as follows:

	Number of recruits aged 55 and over
2005	45
2006	50
2007	42
2008 to date	4

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192058]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a number of contracts to supply and maintain pot plants on its home and overseas estate. Central records are not held and it would not be possible to obtain this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much was spent on translation services for people in the UK who do not speak English by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* to date in 2007-08; [187997]

(2) what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187998]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services: Translation and Interpreting receives from FCO customers virtually no requests to provide translation services aimed at people in the UK who do not speak English, other than the occasional public information notice. For example, in 2006, Consular Directorate commissioned the translation of a public information notice on child abduction in Pakistan. The spend with FCO Services: Translation and Interpreting by FCO customers on work of this kind is less than £1,000 per year.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory last visited Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [191152]

David Miliband: The commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory visited Diego Garcia and the outer islands from 14 to 22 September 2006.

Diplomatic Service: Parliamentary Questions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that parliamentary questions relating to specific countries are communicated for information to British diplomatic staff in those countries. [188146]

Meg Munn: British diplomatic staff serving in countries which are the subject of a parliamentary question are often involved in the drafting of answers to those questions. It has not, however, been standard practice to copy staff into parliamentary questions as a matter of course. We will amend our guidance to ensure that this practice is now in place.

Entry Clearances: Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether checks on applicants for UK visas are outsourced by UK consulates. [192455]

Meg Munn: There are at present 106 visa application centres (VACs) in 49 countries which accept visa applications on behalf of visa sections overseas. These VACs are responsible for collecting biometric information along with the visa fees. They also provide advice on the application process, including whether or not all the necessary documents have been provided. VACs take no part in the decision, whether to issue or refuse a visa, and carry out no formal checks on applicants.

Equatorial Guinea: Diplomatic Service

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will *(a)* put in place increased British consular resources in Equatorial Guinea and *(b)* establish a temporary consular office in Malabo. [190326]

Meg Munn: There are currently no plans to increase the level of UK consular resources in Equatorial Guinea or establish a temporary consular office in Malabo. UK diplomatic and consular representation for Equatorial Guinea is provided on a non-resident basis from our Missions in Nigeria, and we are confident that we can meet all the consular needs of British nationals within this arrangement.

Forced Marriage

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to record activities relating to suspected forced marriages in cases involving immigration; whether it is possible to identify people suspected of being involved in activities relating to forced marriage if they subsequently try to gain admission to the UK; and what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on this matter. [192000]

Meg Munn: The joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office forced marriage unit offers assistance to reluctant sponsors. These are individuals who are forced into a marriage and then subsequently coerced into sponsoring a spouse visa. When contacted by a reluctant sponsor the unit liaises closely with the relevant overseas entry clearance officials to ensure they are aware of the full situation in regard to the sponsor. Post will then process the visa application according to the immigration rules. Where visas are refused details of the unsuccessful application are retained and referred to if the person applies for another visa at a later stage.

If a victim of forced marriage contacts the forced marriage unit after their spouse has entered the UK, the unit encourages the victim to write to the Border and Immigration Agency (as the agency responsible for processing any further applications for settlement) with full details of their reluctance to support any further applications.

Gujarat: Homicide

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether his Department has continued to offer the assistance of UK police in the investigation of the deaths of the two members of the family of Mr. Yusuf Dawood of Huntingdon in Gujarat in 2002; [192160]

(2) whether his Department is requesting further information on the progress of the case in India against the people accused of the deaths of the two members of Mr. Yusuf Dawood's family in Gujarat in 2002. [192161]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* In our regular contacts with the Indian authorities we have continued to offer the assistance of UK police in the investigation of the tragic deaths of two members of the Dawood family in the inter-communal riots in Gujurat in 2002. We have also asked to be kept updated on the progress of the case against those who have been arrested in connection with the incident. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, raised both of these issues directly with the Indian authorities during his visit to India in May 2007. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, subsequently wrote to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in July 2007. Our deputy high commissioner in New Delhi followed this up during a call on the Ministry of External Affairs in August 2007 and wrote a further letter in November 2007. We have yet to receive any response from the Indian authorities to any of these letters but we will continue to press for one.

Iran: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations about derogatory statements made by the President of Iran about the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [190869]

Dr. Howells: The Government have consistently condemned the Iranian President's inflammatory comments about the State of Israel and his offensive statements about the Holocaust. President Ahmadinejad's approach towards Israel can only damage international confidence that Iran is willing to act as a respectable member of the international community.

Most recently, on 25 February, the EU presidency, with strong UK support, issued a statement condemning the recent anti-Israeli comments made by Iranian leaders. The statement called on Iran to refrain from all threats towards other states, to support the need for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the search for lasting peace between Iran and its neighbours. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary commented publicly:

> "I have always said that Iran is a cultured and educated country with the potential to be a key player in a key region of the world. Foreign Minister Mottaki has written in the Guardian about his country's commitments to stability. But recent appalling comments about Israel are a recipe for instability. On 31 January President Ahmadinejad said
>
> 'the mighty hands of the Palestinian people will bring about annihilation of the Zionist regime'.
>
> The Commander in Chief of the IRCG said:
>
> 'In the near future we must see the annihilation of the cancerous tumour of the Israeli occupation by the mighty force of the Hezbollah Ummah fighters'.
>
> This rhetoric is damaging to the Middle East and damaging to Iran. The people deserve better than their leaders."

Japan: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Japanese relations with the UK; and if he will make a statement. [192208]

Meg Munn: Relations between Japan and the UK are excellent. We co-operate closely on a range of key global issues including climate change, development, international security and science and technology, as outlined in the 2007 UK-Japan Joint Statement. Our two countries also enjoy thriving economic and trade links, and Japanese investment continues to be very important for the UK economy. In addition to these areas of shared interest, our close and collaborative relationship allows us to raise frankly with our Japanese colleagues those issues where we disagree, such as whaling and the death penalty.

Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary recently held telephone conversations with their Japanese counterparts. They also look forward to visiting Japan in the next few months for the G8 Summit and related meetings. I hope we will be able to explore new ways in which we can strengthen our ties ahead of and during these visits.

Japan: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of trade between the UK and Japan was in 2007. [192207]

Meg Munn: According to UK Trade and Investment figures, exports of goods to Japan in 2007 were £3,762 million and imports of goods from Japan were £7,982 million. Data for services trade with Japan for 2007 are not yet available, but in 2006 UK exports of services to Japan were worth £4,140 million.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Arab states about suicide bombings in Israel; what the outcome of those discussions has been; and if he will make a statement. [189005]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses the Israeli-Palestinian issue with his Arab interlocutors. On 13 February, he met his Jordanian counterpart, Salah Bashir, and discussed the Middle East Peace Process. On 19 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Aboul Gheit, about the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. On 4 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement condemning the suicide attack in Dimona that day.

The Government continue to make clear that 2008 is a key year for progress on the Middle East Peace Process. The situation on the ground—security and humanitarian—can help or hinder this process. We support the efforts of our EU and UN colleagues to promote an effective Palestinian security force and the reopening of the Gaza crossings. The Reform and Development Plan of the Palestinian Authority is the best hope of sustainable economic and social improvement for Palestinians. The UK has announced a contribution of up to £243 million, linked to political progress and Palestinian reform efforts.

Rendition

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department to meet the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to discuss issues related to rendition; and if he will make a statement. [192913]

Meg Munn: On 5 March my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, spoke to Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, in the margins of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Minister encouraged Mr. Nowak to provide the Government with any evidence he may have regarding allegations that detainees may have been held on Diego Garcia between 2002 and 2003.

South America: British Nationality

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to assist UK citizens in *(a)* Venezuela, *(b)* Colombia and *(c)* Ecuador should circumstances require it; when these plans were last revised; in what circumstances he would implement them; and if he will make a statement. [192658]

Meg Munn: Like all our Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Missions overseas, our embassies in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador have robust contingency planning processes, which are reviewed and updated regularly. If there is a risk in a host country (e.g. from civil disorder or a natural disaster) that could lead to an evacuation of British nationals, the FCO mission there will hold a civil contingency plan. Missions continually assess the risk level they face and plan accordingly. In compiling civil contingency plans, the FCO's objective is to protect British nationals from a situation that poses a serious threat to their safety and, in a worst case scenario, to assist their departure to a place of safety. We encourage our Missions overseas to ensure their plans are compatible with other European partners and to identify areas where cooperation would enhance our planning.

The FCO travel advice for all three countries remains under constant review and has been amended to include factual information about recent developments. We have advised against all but essential travel to certain areas along the Colombian/Venezuelan border. A full copy of the latest FCO travel advice can be read at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

To ensure we are better placed to communicate with them at times of crisis, British nationals living overseas are also encouraged to register online with LOCATE, the FCO's consular registration system, at the same website address.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on clashes in Abyei, Sudan between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Misseriya tribes people; and if he will make a statement. [192608]

Meg Munn: We are aware of clashes between units of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and armed elements of the Misseriya tribes in Abyei and that the UN-Mission in Sudan personnel are mediating to end the fighting. We continue to press both the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to establish an interim civil administration in Abyei to deal with the root causes of these clashes and deliver basic services.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in agreeing a cessation of hostilities in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [192076]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The Government of Sudan announced a cessation of hostilities at the beginning of the African Union (AU) and UN-led peace talks on 27 October 2007 in Sirte, Libya. Few of the key rebel movements attended the talks and none have yet committed to a cessation of hostilities. We have urged all parties to fully commit to a cessation of hostilities and honour that commitment. We continue to work with the AU, UN, key allies and troop contributing countries to ensure that the UN-AU Mission in Darfur is an effective peacekeeping force and to ensure that any new agreement on a cessation of hostilities can be effectively monitored.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any new pledges for helicopters for the UNAMID force in Darfur were received in February; and if he will make a statement. [192078]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* We understand Ethiopia has offered to contribute a number of light tactical helicopters to the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and that other potential contributors have been in talks with the UN. Following meetings convened in New York in January at the UK's initiative to discuss UNAMID helicopter provision, we continue to work closely in support of the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations' efforts to fill the remaining shortfall, including by urging potential helicopter providers to step forward and contribute to this mission.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* formed police units are deployed with UNAMID in Darfur; and if he will make a statement on progress made towards full deployment. [192080]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Our latest information is that one Formed Police Unit (FPU) of 140 police officers from Bangladesh and approximately 1,600 individual police officers have now deployed with the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). At full deployment the UNAMID police element will consist of 3,772 individual police officers and 19 FPUs, but shortfalls remain in the number of police pledged for the mission. We are supporting the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations in pressing for rapid progress towards full deployment, and we are investigating how best the UK can directly contribute to this critical mission capability.

United Nations: Sanctions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people resident in the UK were subject to sanctions by the UN Security Council in 2003; what the average duration of those individuals' appearance on the sanctions list was; and *(a)* how many and *(b)* for what reasons individuals were removed from the list in the same period. [191969]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* There were six individuals resident in the UK subject to UN sanctions in 2003. By the end of 2003 the average length of time spent by these individuals on the sanctions list was just under 18 months. No individuals resident in the UK were removed from the sanctions list during 2003.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 713W, on United Nations: sanctions, what representations on cross-border travel he has received from persons who have been blacklisted by the UN under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. [192071]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The Government are unaware of any representations on cross-border travel from persons resident in the UK subject to sanctions by the UN Security Council.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of Government-sponsored apprenticeships were completed in the last year for which figures are available. [189087]

Bill Rammell: The most recent apprenticeship success rate figure available on the Learning and Skills Council website:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/success/WBL.htm

(which is updated on a quarterly basis) is 63 per cent. in 2006/07. The percentage of apprentices who complete their full apprenticeship framework has grown dramatically from only 24 per cent. in 2001/02 to 63 per cent. in 2006/07 and is still rising. This shows the ongoing improving status and quality of apprenticeships.

Communication

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the availability of language services professionals including *(a)* qualified British Sign Language interpreters, *(b)* cued speech transliterators, *(c)* speech to text reporters and *(d)* electronic/manual notetakers. [183722]

Bill Rammell: The Department recognises the need to ensure the workforce supporting learners is sufficient and capable to support learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The Government are not the employer of language services professionals and therefore the department is not involved in the recruitment or deployment of such staff. We do expect our learning providers to recruit and organise their workforce to meet local circumstances and learner and business needs.

Our delivery partner the Learning and Skills Council, has stated in its strategy for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, "Learning for Living and Work" (2006) that it is of prime importance to address workforce development. The strategy has identified where gaps in specialist support occur and is working with the sector skills council covering teachers and support staff, Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) to address these issues. Detailed plans are still under consideration.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the absence rate among his Department's staff was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [190236]

Bill Rammell: DIUS was created by Machinery elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

There are records of average working days lost per employee due to illness for the period from July to December 2007. DIUS continues to rely for this information on the computer systems of the departments from which it transferred staff at its inception. These show average working days lost per employee in the six month period of 2.7 for ex-DTI employees and 4.1 for ex-DfES employees.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to staff in his Department or its predecessor were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184347]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007;

(a) Zero

(b) Zero

(c) Zero

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162456]

Mr. Lammy: Since the publication of the revised civil service code on 6 June 2006 my Department's nominated officers have received no reports made under paragraph 16.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. [162457]

Bill Rammell: Since the publication of the revised civil service code on 6 June 2006, my Department's nominated officers have received no reports of allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189078]

Bill Rammell: The response assumes that part *(a)* refers to staff of all ages.

Ex-DTI (BERR):

(a) 204.3 full-time equivalent

(b) 0

Ex-DfES (DCSF):

(a) 520.0

(b) 0

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [191513]

Bill Rammell: DIUS was created by Machinery of Government changes in July 2007 from elements of the previous Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills. DIUS does not have a record of recruitment by its predecessor departments but the detail of recruitment since its formation can be reported. Recruitment by DIUS since it was established has been very limited and of these recruits just one is aged over 55 years.

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since its formation; and what the cost of replacement was. [187477]

Bill Rammell: Records of lost or stolen property for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are kept on its behalf as part of a shared service provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Where such assets have been lost, they have been included in answers given on behalf of those Departments.

Departmental Publicity

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the estimated total cost of re-branding is expected to be following the formation of his Department. [162287]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes. Since this date the Department has spent an estimated £33,556.75 on signposts, graphic designers and stationery. Work on the website is expected to come to in the region of £60,000 for the financial year 2007-08. We are not expecting any further rebranding costs.

Departmental Records

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many classified documents went missing from his Department in the last 12 months for which figures are available; at what grades of classification; and whether any of these were in the post. [181787]

Bill Rammell: No such incidents have been reported.

Higher Education: Immigration

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the financial impact of the new immigration rules on the income of universities. [185695]

Bill Rammell: International students contribute an estimated £5 billion a year to the UK economy and are vital to the economic, academic and cultural life of FE and HE institutions. Through Universities UK's membership of the Joint Education Taskforce, we are ensuring that Universities are fully engaged in changes to immigration rules and, in particular changes that may impact on their income, such as the ability to recruit international students.

Higher Education: International Cooperation

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on improving higher education links with *(a)* Vietnam, *(b)* the People's Republic of China, *(c)* the Republic of South Africa and *(d)* Cuba; and if he will make a statement. [192016]

Bill Rammell: The Secretary of State regularly meets the Foreign Secretary and discusses a range of issues including higher education links between England/UK and other countries. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has lead responsibility for the Prime Minister's Initiative for international education (PMI) which seeks to maintain the United Kingdom's position as a leader in international education. One of the major elements of the PMI is about enhancing and improving collaboration between UK educational institutions and those abroad and higher education plays a key role in this. China and Vietnam are priority countries for PMI. I have today signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with my counterpart from Vietnam, the Vice Minister of Education and Training. The MoC signing reconfirms the UK Government's support for education co-operation with Vietnam.

The Department also supports a number of programmes to encourage collaboration between the UK and strategic partner countries These include the development of higher education links with China and South Africa.

Higher Education: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department plans to provide guidance to further education colleges planning to recruit Muslim chaplains or train those already carrying out this function. [191579]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council has funded the National Ecumenical Agency in Further Education (now reconstituted into the National Council for Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education—FBFE) to develop guidance for chaplains and multi-faith support teams. This was published in January 2008. Training materials for new chaplains will be published very shortly.

Any further enhancements that are needed to the guidance and training materials will be determined according to the outcome of the consultation on 'The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism', once known.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) is leading on the development of a framework of standards for institutions engaging Muslim faith leaders in public service. This will deliver a commitment set out in CLG's Preventing Violent Extremism Action Plan, published in April 2007, and will include FE colleges.

Higher Educations: Radicalism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has made an assessment of which further education colleges face a particular threat from violent extremism. [191578]

Bill Rammell: The evidence we have is that there is a very small minority of individuals who seek to promote or undertake acts of violence and that they sometimes seek to recruit other individuals to hold similar views. As such, there is a serious, but not widespread problem.

We believe that colleges are best placed, with their local partners, to determine the level of threat they may face from violent extremism, but that all should be actively promoting community cohesion and shared values while remaining vigilant.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by the Higher Education Funding Council for England on teaching costs for full-time and part-time higher education students on level 4 programmes in 2006-07; and how much is planned to be spent in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [192344]

Bill Rammell: We do not hold data specifically at level 4. However, the amounts that the Higher Education Funding Council for England have/will spend on teaching costs for full and part time higher education students on programmes at level 4 and above are outlined in the following table:

	Recurrent teaching grant (£ million)
2006-07	4567
2007-08	4766
2008-09	4920
2009-10[1]	5095
2010-11[1]	5325

[1] The figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative at this stage and will be confirmed in the grant letters for those years.

Students: Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether, following the introduction of identity cards on a voluntary basis, an applicant for a student loan will be required to demonstrate that they hold an identity card in order to complete the application. [184065]

Bill Rammell: The policy on the introduction of identity cards on a voluntary basis rests with the Home Office. Currently either a passport or a birth certificate (accompanied by an identity confirmation form signed by a person of good standing) is required as proof of identity for students applying for a Government Student Loan. We have no current plans to change this, although the process for verifying the identity of applicants is kept under review.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who encountered difficulties in providing personal identification on applying for a student loan in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [192336]

Bill Rammell: The responsibility for confirming the identity of applicants for student support in England rests with local authorities and no information is held centrally about the numbers of applicants who experience difficulties in providing the necessary personal information.

Students are currently asked to provide either a valid passport, or a birth certificate accompanied by an identity confirmation form signed by a person of good standing.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which student loans cover university accommodation costs; and if he will make a statement. [192342]

Bill Rammell: Maintenance loans are available to eligible full-time students on courses of higher education to help them cover their general living costs. However, we do not specify how students should spend their loans.

The Department undertakes a Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) periodically. This survey provides information about patterns of student income and expenditure, including average accommodation costs, for an academic year, and also the level of support that students receive by way of loans. The last published report covered the 2004/05 academic year, and research is currently in the field for 2007/08, which will report in 2009.

The maximum amounts of loan available are uprated each year in line with forecast inflation. However, we departed from our usual practice during the public debate on the new package of student support for 2006/07 that took place during the time that the 2004 Higher Education Bill was passing through Parliament. We adjusted the maximum loan amounts for the 2008/07 academic year in order to match the median of students' basic living costs, as established by the 2002/03 SIES. For subsequent academic years up to and including 2009/10, we have reverted to the usual practice of uprating the maximum loan amounts in line with forecast inflation.

Translation Services

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills into what languages departmental publications were translated in 2006-07; how many were translated; and what the total cost of translation was in that year. [178220]

Bill Rammell: Following the machinery of government changes, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created in June 2007 and therefore DIUS did not translate any publications in financial year 2006-07.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contribution his Department makes to the pursuit of the skills agenda through career guidance programmes run in schools. [181031]

Mr. Lammy: We are working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to raise aspirations of young people and encourage them to acquire the skills and qualifications they will need to succeed in their careers. Through Sector Skills Councils, we are ensuring employers have a strong voice in shaping qualifications to meet their needs. We are also working with DCSF to ensure young people have access to the range of information about careers to help them make informed choices and to ensure smooth transition in the support available to them as young adults and the help provided by the new adult advancement and careers service.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the signatories to the Skills Pledge. [192546]

Bill Rammell: Latest data from the Learning and Skills Council indicate that as at the end of January 2008 there were 1,239 organisations that had made the Skills Pledge. I am placing a copy of the information in the Libraries of the House.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from an alcohol-related underlying cause aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21-30, *(c)* 31-40, *(d)* 41-50, *(e)* 51-60 and *(f)* 61 years and above in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 10 years broken down by sex; and if he will make a statement. [192896]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from an alcohol-related underlying cause aged (a) under 20, (b) 21-30, (c) 31-40, (d) 41-50, (e) 51-60 and (f) 61 years and above in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 10 years, broken down by sex. (192896)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in the Yorkshire and The Humber government office region, broken down by age group (Table 1), and in parliamentary constituencies in the Yorkshire and The Humber government office region, broken down by sex (Table 2), from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures are not available for parliamentary constituencies, broken down by sex and age together, as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in death statistics. A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Bank Services: Liechtenstein

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when his Department became aware that details of bank accounts in Liechtenstein of UK residents were available for sale; and if he will make a statement; [191987]

(2) when his Department took the decision to purchase information relating to bank accounts in Liechtenstein of UK residents; how many of the Liechtenstein account holders are non-domiciled for tax purposes; and if he will make a statement; [191988]

(3) what discussions were held on the issue of purchasing information on bank accounts in Liechtenstein of UK residents between HM Revenue and Customs and *(a)* Treasury officials and *(b)* Ministers before the decision was taken to purchase the information; and if he will make a statement; [191989]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK residents referred to in the information purchased from Liechtenstein who *(a)* are and *(b)* have been evading UK tax payments; and if he will make a statement; [191990]

(5) how many UK residents referred to in the information purchased from Liechtenstein are the subject of investigation by HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [191991]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* HMRC learnt in July 2005 that details of Liechtenstein bank accounts held by UK residents might be made available to a number of countries. HMRC worked with other countries to secure and share Liechtenstein bank account information through bi-lateral international treaties.

By virtue of section 26 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, HMRC is empowered to pay a reward in return for a service provided to it. No further information can be provided on the handling of individual cases involving intelligence sources of this kind.

126 individuals who are or were resident in the United Kingdom have been investigated or are presently under inquiry by HMRC. The existence of an account in Liechtenstein does not of itself indicate tax evasion but many of the individuals under inquiry by HMRC have made disclosures about their tax affairs. HMRC does not have details at this time of the domicile status of Liechtenstein account holders under inquiry.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons claiming child benefit in the United Kingdom are doing so in respect of children not resident in the United Kingdom; and what the financial cost was of such payments in the latest period for which figures are available. [186155]

Jane Kennedy: Entitlement to child benefit is generally reliant on the child in the award being present in the UK. There are a number of circumstances where child benefit is payable when the child is not resident. For example where the child is receiving medical treatment anywhere abroad for an illness that began before the child left the UK or where the person claiming child benefit is working in the UK and paying UK national insurance contributions and their family is living in another EEA country.

The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of his Department's initiatives were advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was in each year. [192230]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1364W. The majority of the Treasury's spending on advertising is for the purposes of recruitment, except where indicated in the previous answer referred to.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that documents relating to his Department which are made publicly available by the US Congress Library following a freedom of information request in the United States also be made publicly available in the UK. [192010]

Angela Eagle: Decisions to publish information are made on an individual basis, taking account of all the circumstances in any particular case.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192108]

Angela Eagle: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

Employment: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which 10 job classifications have shown the greatest *(a)* growth and *(b)* decline in employment in (i) the London region and (ii) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency since 1997. [191957]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the ten job classifications which have shown the greatest (a) growth (b) decline in employment in (i) the London region and (ii) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency since 1997 (191957)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, provides estimates of total employment for people resident in the London Government Office region and in the Bexleyheath and Crayford Parliamentary constituency, by occupation. The figures provided are for the twelve months ending February 2002 and for the latest period, the twelve months ending March 2007. The source data used is the APS, using Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000). The twenty-five occupational classifications are ranked according to the largest positive change in Bexleyheath and Crayford. Data prior to 2002 are classified using Standard Occupational Classification 1990 (SOC90), consequently it is not possible to provide a consistent time series for the period requested.

Since these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, for the Bexleyheath and Crayford, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give accurate estimates in all instances.

Total Employment by Standard Occupational Classification[1] (two digit) London[2] and Bexleyheath and Crayford[3]

Thousand

	London			*Bexleyheath and Crayford*		
	March 2001 to February 2002	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*Net change 2002-07*	*March 2001 to February 2002*	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*Net change 2002-07*
71 sales occupations	203	194	-9	2	3	1
21 science and technology professionals	141	142	1	2	2	1
61 caring personal service occupations	140	175	34	2	2	1
23 teaching and research professionals	167	175	8	1	1	0
33 protective service occupations	24	27	2	1	1	0
31 science and technology associate professionals	61	61	0	2	2	0
52 skilled metal and electronic trades	84	77	-6	1	1	0
51 skilled agricultural trades	11	12	0	0	0	0
53 skilled construction and building trades	92	120	28	1	1	0
91 elementary trades, plant and storage related	60	67	7	1	1	0
82 transport and mobile machine drivers/operatives	96	99	3	2	2	0
35 business and public service assoc. professional	249	237	-13	2	2	0
11 Corporate managers	444	491	48	4	3	0
81 process, plant and machine operatives	57	49	-8	1	0	-1
42 secretarial and related occupations	140	124	-16	3	2	-1
92 elementary administration and service occs	256	253	-3	4	3	-1
41 administrative occupations	366	320	-46	8	7	-2
12 managers/proprietors in agriculture/services	112	132	20	[4]—	1	[4]—
22 health professionals	45	53	9	0	[4]—	[4]—
24 business and public service professionals	180	213	33	[4]—	1	[4]—

Total Employment by Standard Occupational Classification[1] (two digit) London[2] and Bexleyheath and Crayford[3]

Thousand

	London			Bexleyheath and Crayford		
	March 2001 to February 2002	April 2006 to March 2007	Net change 2002-07	March 2001 to February 2002	April 2006 to March 2007	Net change 2002-07
32 health and social welfare assoc. professional	107	125	18	[4]—	1	[4]—
34 culture, media and sports occupations	172	180	8	[4]—	2	[4]—
54 textiles, printing and other skilled trades	64	63	0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
62 leisure and other personal service occs	69	76	6	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
72 customer service occupations	30	32	1	[4]—	0	[4]—

[1] Standard occupational classification (SOC2000).
[2] Government office region.
[3] Parliamentary constituencies 2005 revision.
[4] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.

Notes:

1. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
2. APS figures are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.
3. At the two digit SOC2000 level there are 25 classification groups.
4. All 25 occupational classification groups are provided, ranked according to the largest positive change in Bexleyheath and Crayford.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

EU Nationals: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of non-British EU nationals working in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Morecambe and Lunesdale in the latest period for which figures are available. [192592]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number non British EU nationals working in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Morecambe and Lunesdale in the latest period for which figures are available. (192592)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on non British EU nationals working in local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of non British EU nationals employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

From the APS, there were an estimated 7,000 non British EU nationals of working age in employment who were resident in Lancashire for the twelve month period ending in June 2007, Estimates for the Parliamentary constituency of Morecambe and Lunesdale are not available since the group sampling size is zero or disclosive. The July 2006 to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent available.

It should be noted that the nationality question in the APS may undercount the number of foreign nationals because it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK less than six months, students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent and people living in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenues which would accrue to the Exchequer from taxation and duties on alcoholic drinks if goods brought into the UK for personal consumption were liable for taxation. [192092]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the revenue impact of cross-border shopping on UK spirits duty are published annually by HM Revenue and Customs in the Measuring Indirect Tax Losses report. The 2007 report is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/mitl.pdf

The most recently published estimate of the revenue impact of cross-border shopping on beer and wine duty was last published in the 2005 report. HM Revenue and Customs are currently reviewing the methodology and will be producing an update in the 2008 report which will be published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on his proposed increase of fuel duty from 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [192884]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Lady to the answers I gave the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) and the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the costs of taxing vehicles for two six month periods rather than a single period of one year;

and what estimate he has made of the transaction costs of processing *(a)* two six month applications and *(b)* one annual application. [192251]

Angela Eagle: Six month licensing rates of vehicle excise duty are statutorily set at 55 per cent. of the equivalent annual rate, in recognition of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's administrative costs in processing additional licensing volumes. Six month licensing rates also reflect Exchequer impacts due to the later receipt of duty for the subsequent licence.

The agency accepts licence payment through the Post Office saving stamps scheme, as this can help people set aside money towards their licence.

The Chancellor keeps vehicle excise duty rates under review as part of the Budget process, with any changes announced in the context of his Budget statement.

Migrant Workers: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrant workers there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last three years. [191959]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last three years. (191959)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford Parliamentary constituency, the London borough of Bexley and Greater London for the 12 month periods ending in June for 2005, 2006, and 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent which is currently available.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Number of non-UK born persons in employment in Greater London, London borough of Bexley and Bexleyheath and Crayford in the last three years

Thousand

	Migrant workers[1]		
12 months ending June:	*Greater London*	*London borough of Bexley*	*Bexleyheath and Crayford*
2005	1,098	13	4
2006	1,133	13	5
2007	1,200	13	5

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59. Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to margin of uncertainty.

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).

it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Gift Aid

Clive Efford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to change the rules governing gift aid tax relief on donations paid by companies to allow the tax relief to be paid directly to the charities that benefited from the original donation; and if he will make a statement. [192718]

Jane Kennedy: The Government keep all taxes under review. HM Treasury has recently consulted on ways to drive up charitable giving from individuals through Gift Aid. The consultation closed on 30 September 2007 and the Government will report back on progress shortly.

Households: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of residents in Wirral West constituency are in *(a)* single, *(b)* co-habiting and *(c)* married households. [192331]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking for the proportions of residents in Wirral West constituency who live in (a) single households, (b) co-habiting households and (c) married households. (192331).

The figures are as follows:

	Wirral, West
All residents[1]	77,536
All residents in households	76,535
Percentage of all residents in households who live in single person households	13

	Wirral, West
Percentage of all residents in households who live in cohabiting couple households	6
Percentage of all residents in households who live in married couple households	53

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[1] Includes persons usually resident in communal establishments, such as hospitals and prisons (for example).

These figures have been extracted from 2001 Census Commissioned table C0892.

Humber Bridge: Debts

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministers from the Department for Transport on arrangements for settling the Humber Bridge debt; and if he will make a statement. [192566]

Yvette Cooper: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has held no discussions with Ministers from the Department for Transport on this matter.

Job Creation: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs were created in the County of Durham in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [192574]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of jobs created in County Durham in 2007. (192574)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in County Durham.

Figures are provided for the twelve months ending June 2006 and 2007.

As with any survey, results from the APS at a small geographical area are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

PQ 230: Net change in employment level for people aged 16 and over by residence for County Durham

		Thousand
	Employment level	*Net change*
2006[1]	214,400	—
2007[1]	226,700	12,300

[1] Figures are for the twelve months ending June that year from the Annual Population Survey.

Notes:

1. Figures at this detailed level are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) microdata which are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in spring 2003. These are lower than the latest population estimates used in the Labour Market First Release.
2. As with any survey, results from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Knowledge Network Project

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on Knowledge Network Project, what the title was of each guidance note and manual produced by his Department on using the Knowledge Network. [191323]

Angela Eagle: The guidance notes and manuals on the Knowledge Network Project are produced by the owners, and not by OGCbuying.solutions, therefore a list of the titles is not held.

Marriage: Islam

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1985W, on marriage: Islam, how many marriages have taken place in each of the 152 buildings in the last 10 years; how many of those weddings have taken place in the presence of *(a)* a registrar of the registration district and *(b)* an authorised person for that building; what criteria he applies in deciding on applications for authorised person status; and how many people have applied for authorised person status and have been refused in that period. [192523]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question pursuant to the Answer of 29th February 2008, Official Report, column 1985W, on marriage: Islam, how many marriages have taken place in each of the 152 buildings in the last 10 years; how many of those weddings have taken place in the presence of (a) a registrar of the registration district and (b) an authorised person for that building; what criteria he applies in deciding on applications for authorised person status; and how many people have applied for authorised person status and have been refused in that period. (192523)

Information on the numbers of marriages in England and Wales is published in the annual reference volume Series FM2 Marriage, Divorce and Adoption Statistics, available from the House of Commons library. However, figures for the number of marriages by building are not readily available.

Authorisation of a person to be present at the solemnisation of marriages in a registered building instead of a registrar are given by the trustees or governing body of the building. They may do so one year or more after the building has been registered by the Registrar General for the solemnisation of marriages. The criteria for authorisation are a matter for the trustees or governing body but the person must fulfil certain statutory obligations and duties in respect of the solemnisation and registration functions. The trustees or governing body certify on a prescribed form the name and address of the authorised person to the Registrar General and to the superintendent registrar of the registration district in which the building is situated. This is not an application and there are therefore no refusals. Information prior to 2005 is not readily available but in each of the last three years, the number of authorised persons certified to the Registrar General has been:

2005. 1379, of which 1 was for a building registered for Muslim marriages

2006. 1636, of which 7 were for buildings registered for Muslim marriages

2007. 1057, of which 10 were for buildings registered for Muslim marriages

National Asset Register

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what domestic dwellings other than official ministerial residences are on the national asset register. [192196]

Yvette Cooper: The national asset register itemises all assets with a value over £1 million, including residential accommodation. Below this threshold, residential accommodation is included under the category of dwellings. The register is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/investment_procurement/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.cfm

Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measure of inflation his Department recommends public authorities use to calculate pay rises for 2008-09. [192197]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy is that public sector pay settlements should reflect the individual labour market position of work forces, be consistent with achievement of the Government's CPI inflation target of 2 per cent., be affordable and represent value for money for taxpayers.

Population

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the *(a)* number of households and *(b)* size of the population in each local billing authority in the UK. [192195]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the estimates of a) the number of households and b) the size of the population in each local authority in the United Kingdom. (192195).

The latest household estimates available by local authority for England are for Mid-2004 and are provided by Communities and Local Government. For other countries within the United Kingdom, household estimates/projections are the responsibility of the relevant devolved administrations.

The latest estimates/projections are available in the published tables linked below however, please be aware that these may not be on a consistent basis:

England-1981-2004

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140987

Scotland-1991-2006

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/stats/he-06-t1.xls

Wales-2001-2004

http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/housing-2006/sdr139-2006.pdf?lang=en-

Northern Ireland-2001-2015

http://three.ninet.org.uk/archive/demography/population/household/lgdtotals.xls

The latest population estimates available for local authorities in the United Kingdom are for mid-2006. The mid-2004 estimates have also been included here in order to provide consistency with those household estimates provided for England. Links for these UK estimates are included below:

Mid-2006 Population Estimates;

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9666.xls

Mid-2004 Population Estimates;

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9672.xls

Public Expenditure Barnett Formula

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to publish the Statement of Funding Policy in relation to the Barnett Formula on an annual basis. [192656]

Yvette Cooper: The Statement of Funding Policy is updated and published in each spending review. The population figures used in the Barnett formula reflect the latest ONS population estimates and these are updated annually.

Retail Prices Index

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to recalculate the standard measure for the retail price index to take account of new spending patterns. [192493]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 march 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what plans there are to recalculate the standard measure for the retail price index to take account of new inflationary pressures. (192493)

The RPI measures changes in the cost of a representative basket of goods and services. This involves weighting together aggregated prices for different categories of goods and services so that each takes its appropriate share within household budgets. The basket is fixed for a year at a time, but is reviewed every year to reflect changes in household expenditure patterns. A revised basket of goods will be incorporated into the RPI when the estimate for February is published on 18 March. Further information about the combination of goods and services used can be found on the ONS website at: www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/CPI&RPI_basket_2007.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Dundee

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the City of Dundee by HM Revenue and Customs, and its predecessors, in each of the last 10 years. [191010]

Jane Kennedy: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed in Dundee by HM Revenue and Customs (previously Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise) since 2000 is as follows.

As at 1 April:	*FTE*
2000	259
2001	257
2002	234
2003	737

As at 1 April:	*FTE*
2004	872
2005	853
2006	855
2007	857

Data before 2000 are not available.

Sandstorm Report

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the Answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W, on the Sandstorm report, what plans he has to publish the Sandstorm report; [190832]

(2) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* governmental and non-governmental organisations have been provided access to part of the Sandstorm report. [190833]

Angela Eagle: There are no plans to publish the Sandstorm report. A decision will be reached shortly regarding the internal review of an FOI request for the report. Information is shared on a 'need to know' basis. The Sandstorm report has been made available to officials involved in a current FOI internal review only.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been lost to the Exchequer as a result of tobacco smuggling in the last 12 months. [192067]

Angela Eagle: The most recent estimates of the revenue loss from tobacco smuggling are for 2005-06 and were published by HMRC in October 2007 in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007".

Estimates for 2006-07 will be published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Tax Credits Office

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the 1,350 new posts created in the tax credits office in 2006-07 have been filled; and how many of these new positions deal directly with *(a)* applications for and *(b)* overpayments of tax credits before 2006-07. [190014]

Jane Kennedy: Staffing numbers related to work on tax credits vary according to work load and season. In 2006-07, staff levels rose to 10,210, an increase of 1,370 on the previous year. Staff work flexibly in a number of different areas, including the tax credits helpline, tax credits office, compliance, and debt management.

Tax Credits: Applications

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what compensatory or interim payments may be made to claimants for tax credits when they *(a)* encounter delays in deciding their claim, *(b)* are querying an overpayment and *(c)* are applying for a backdated claim. [188716]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, "Complaints and Putting Things Right", which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheets/complaints-factsheet.pdf

Cash cheque payments are made manually, and are available in exceptional circumstances, to prevent hardship, or where a claimant is temporarily out of payment.

HMRCs Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" explains the Department's approach to overpayments and is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

A tax credits award can be backdated to a maximum of three months from the date of the claim providing eligibility requirements are met at the earlier date.

Tax Free Savings Schemes

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much potential revenue has been lost to the Exchequer arising from tax free savings schemes during the last recorded year. [192069]

Angela Eagle: The estimated cost of tax relief on tax free savings schemes, individual savings accounts and personal equity plans can be found in table 1.5 of HMRC's published National Statistics available at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Court of Justice ruling, in Linneweber, for the tax treatment of licensed bingo; and if he will make a statement. [191995]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs considers that the judgment has no implications for the tax treatment of bingo.

Taxation: Gambling

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will visit an amusement arcade on Canvey Island sea front in order to assess the effects of gaming duties on *(a)* employment and *(b)* Exchequer revenues; and if he will make a statement. [190440]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers have no plans at present to make such a visit.

Taxation: Waste Management

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of landfill tax receipts in 2008-09; which environmental projects receive funds from landfill tax receipts; and which environmental projects he expects to do so in 2008-09. [193023]

Angela Eagle: Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2008-09 are published in table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) enables landfill site operators to claim a landfill tax credit for contributions they make to enrolled environmental bodies (EBs) for spending on approved objects. The EBs are those enrolled by Entrust, the regulatory body for the LCF. Projects that are able to benefit from LCF funding include the reclaiming of land, improvements to local community facilities, repairs to places of worship, and habitat creation projects in support of biodiversity.

Details of the enrolled EBs and registered projects are available on the Entrust website at:

www.entrust.org.uk

Which EBs and projects will receive funding in 2008-09 is a matter for site operators and EBs, within the confines and requirements of the fund.

Teachers: Suicide

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recorded suicides there were by members of the teaching profession in each of the last 10 years. [192143]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many recorded suicides there have been by members of the teaching profession in each of the last 10 years. (192143)

The attached table provides the number of deaths of persons recorded at death as teaching professionals (whether or not in employment at the time of death) where suicide was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales in 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1], teaching professionals[2], England and Wales 1997-2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)
1997	65
1998	76
1999	55
2000	70
2001	48
2002	58
2003	65
2004	63
2005	67
2006	55

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.

[2] 'Teaching professionals' was defined using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC90) codes 233, 234, 235 and 239 for the years 1997 to 2001, and the Standard Occupation Classification 2000 (SOC2000) codes 2314, 2315, 2316 and 2319 for the years 2001 to 2006. This definition includes secondary education teaching professionals, primary and nursery education teaching professionals, special needs education teaching professionals, and teaching professionals not elsewhere classified.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Congestion Charge: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the London congestion charge is classified by the Office for National Statistics for statistical purposes. [192410]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to answer your recent Parliamentary Question on the classification of the congestion charge for statistical purposes. (192410)

London congestion charge payments are classified as service payments for National Accounts purposes. The classification is in line with international statistical guidance on payments for using produced assets, road tolls and road charging.

The decision on the classification of city charging schemes was taken by the National Accounts Classification Committee (NACC) prior to the introduction of the London charge in February 2003.

Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many digital photographs of domestic properties in England are stored by the Valuation Office Agency. [192163]

Jane Kennedy: As at 19 December 2007 the number of digital photographs of domestic properties stored by the Valuation Office Agency was:

	Number
England	1,311,115
Wales	258,265

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2099W, on the Valuation Office: data protection, what types of data are sent by *(a)* fax, *(b)* email and *(c)* CD/DVD. [192199]

Jane Kennedy: Faxes are used to send ad hoc copies of general correspondence and data with a protective marking no higher than 'Protect'.

General correspondence, performance monitoring reports and data with a protective marking no higher than 'Restricted' are sent by email.

Encrypted core business data, where data sharing is permitted under the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, including non-domestic rating list and summary valuation data are sent by CD/DVD.

The Valuation Office Agency follows HMRC operating standards for the handling of data.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2099W, on the Valuation Office: data protection, in how many cases in the last 36 months a CD/DVD sent by post or courier has been lost. [192200]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency is not aware that it has lost any CD/DVDs sent by post or courier in the last 36 months.

VAT: Fraud

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was lost to the Exchequer from VAT carousel fraud in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* in each of the last five years for which statistics are available. [192068]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC published annual estimates of the impact of MTIC fraud on VAT receipts for 2005-06 and 2006-07 alongside PBR 2007 in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007", which is available from the House of Commons Library or from the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/mitl.pdf

Annual estimates for the periods 2000-01 to 2004-05 were published in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2005", which is also available from the House of Commons Library or from the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2005/mitl2005.pdf

While no monthly estimates are available for the revenue lost to the Treasury from MTIC fraud, monthly estimates of MTIC related trade are published by the ONS using overseas trade data supplied by HMRC and are available from their website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/trd0208.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the qualifying income level for tax credits is for *(a)* a two-person single-earner household and *(b)* a two-person single-earner household with (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three children. [191975]

Jane Kennedy: Two-person single-earner families without children can benefit from working tax credit up to annual incomes of around £16,000. Two-person single-earner families with children can benefit from tax credits up to annual incomes of around £58,000 (£66,000 if there is at least one child who is less than a year old).

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households (i) were owing and (ii) owed arrears of (A) working tax credit and (B) child tax credit in each year since their inception; [192135]

(2) how many households with *(a)* one individual, *(b)* a lone parent with dependent children, *(c)* a couple with no children and *(d)* a couple with children (i) were owed and (ii) owed arrears of (A) working tax credit and (B) child tax credit in each year since their inception. [192136]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credit payments are made on a weekly, fortnightly and four-weekly basis. As a result, when comparing the tax credit entitlement to payments made, a family will by definition be paid in advance or arrears at any given time.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale received working families tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [192597]

Jane Kennedy: Working families tax credit was replaced by child and working tax credits in April 2003.

Estimates of the number of recipient families of working families tax credit in 2001-02, broken down by constituency, appear in the HMRC quarterly WFTC and DPTC Geographical Analyses. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/wftc/wfdptc_geog.htm

Estimates for 2005-06 of the number of in-work families with tax credit awards, by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2005-06 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Geographical Analysis." This publication and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by constituency with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayment cases were identified for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each financial year since their inception. [192137]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of awards with an overpayment of tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is produced in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments in" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayments were made to residents of *(a)* Morecambe and Lunesdale, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192594]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, local authority and country, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analysis". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2006-07 tax credit awards are due to be published in May 2008.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Tote

12. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [192295]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written statement to the House on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 113WS.

Schools: Culture

14. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage access for school children to high quality creative and cultural experiences. [192297]

Margaret Hodge: On 13 February 2008 we announced a £25 million Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of offering children and young people a range of high quality cultural experiences for five hours a week, in and out of school.

In addition to this we will invest a further £110 million to expand the successful Creative Partnerships programme over the next three years so that it works with more than 2,000 schools per year.

Sport: Children

15. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps he has taken to increase children's participation in sport; and if he will make a statement. [192298]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS and DCSF continue to work together to develop the plans to offer children and young people, aged five to 16 years, five hours of sport a week and three hours for young people aged 16 to 19 years from April 2008.

We are currently working with governing bodies and school sport associations to improve their competition frameworks and we are also establishing a national network of Competition Managers to implement our plans at a local level.

Additionally we are introducing a new National School Sport Week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, to encourage all schools to run sports days and tournaments. This will build on the success of the UK School Games and its impact on motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage school children to become more fit and active. [192591]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS and DCSF continue to work together to develop the plans to offer children and young people, aged five to 16 years, five hours of sport a week and three hours for young people aged 16 to 19 years from April 2008.

We are currently working with governing bodies and school sport associations to improve their competition frameworks and we are also establishing a national network of Competition Managers to implement our plans at a local level.

Additionally we are introducing a new National School Sport Week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, to encourage all schools to run sports days and tournaments. This will build on the success of the UK School Games and its impact on motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

The DCSF and DCMS are also ensuring that children enjoy an active childhood by providing them with more opportunities for physically active play. To back up new investment announced in The Children's Plan, we will publish a new national strategy on play later this year.

Licensing Laws

16. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to bring forward amendments to the licensing laws; and if he will make a statement. [192300]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The evaluation of the Licensing Act 2003, published on 4 March, reveals a mixed picture. Our main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms but people are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems, and that there is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour.

We have announced measures to address problems including better use of the powers in the Act, such as tough conditions or withdrawal of licences, but also introducing new initiatives to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour. We will consider how we will take these proposals forward once a summit of police and local authorities has been held.

Bingo Industry: Taxation

18. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Treasury on the taxation regime for the bingo industry. [192302]

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Treasury on the taxation regime for the bingo industry. [192296]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials have regular discussions with Treasury about a range of gambling issues.

Creative Britain Apprenticeships

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department plans to ensure all children and young adults have access to Creative Britain apprenticeships. [192285]

Margaret Hodge: My Department is already working with employers, sector skills councils, trade associations, the Learning and Skills Council and other Government Departments to ensure the provision of high quality places.

We will work with the new National Apprenticeship Service to expand opportunities for young people and adults in line with the recommendations of World-class Apprenticeships which are designed to encourage more employers to offer apprenticeships.

National Lottery

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the levels of unspent surpluses held by the national lottery distributors are. [192294]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the end of January 2008 the National Lottery Distribution Fund balance stood at £1,695 million. That was 55 per cent. lower than July 1999 when the balance peaked. £100 million was held by the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund.

Video Games and Films: Classification

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to strengthen the regime for classification of violent video games and films. [192301]

Margaret Hodge: The Prime Minister has asked Dr. Tanya Byron to carry out a review to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of the existing measures that help prevent children from being exposed to harmful or inappropriate material in video games and on the internet. We expect her final report later this month which may include recommendations for improvements or additional action. Once we have received the report, we will consider whether further action is necessary.

Art Works: Theft

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many spoliation compensation payments his Department made in each of the last 10 years and what the *(a)* cause of compensation and *(b)* value of each such payment was. [191365]

Margaret Hodge: Since the establishment of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in 2000, the Government have, on the recommendation of the panel, made two ex gratia payments to the families of those who lost works of art to the Nazis. In 2001, a payment of £125,000 was made to a claimant whose family had been forced to sell View of Hampton Court Palace by Jan Griffier the elder, during their flight from the Nazis in Belgium in 1940. The painting is in the collection of the Tate. In 2006, a payment of £175,000 was made in respect of four old master drawings, in the collection of the British Museum, which had been seized by the Gestapo in Czechoslovakia in 1939. All the panel's reports have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to bring forward legislation for the restitution of Nazi-era looted cultural property, following his Department's consultation on the issue. [192484]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* Having carefully considered the responses to the public consultation, my Department is now working to identify a suitable legislative vehicle with which to take this forward.

Arts Council of England: Expenditure

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Arts Council England in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last 10 years. [191001]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council has not regularly funded any organisation in Bexley in the last 10 years. They have however provided £1,109,487 in lottery funding, individual grants are as follows:

	Recipient	*£*
1997-98	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	99,143
1997-98	Goldsmiths Ballet Group	2,000
1997-98	British Chinese Women Artists	5,000
1997-98	Dartford Youth Choir	3,750
1998-99	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	161,250
1998-99	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	142,059
1998-99	Bexley Council for Racial Equality	23,580
1999-2000	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	57,381
1999-2000	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	99,938
1999-2000	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	99,938
1999-2000	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	57,381
1999-2000	Photolink	4,430
1999-2000	Tactile Exhibition of Sculpture	2,065
2000-01	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	102,936
2000-01	Doreen Bird College of Performing Arts	59,102
2000-01	Bexley Council for Racial Equality	20,000
2000-01	Marie Martin School of Irish Dancing	4,225
2001-02	Erith Town Forum	4,200
2001-02	Dulverton Arts Week	5,000
2002-03	Bexley Council for Racial Equality	29,285
2004-05	Bexley Academy of Music and Performing Arts	6,677
2005-06	Cine-UK Ltd.	48,750
2006-07	London Borough of Bexley	71,397

The Arts Council have also provided grant in aid funds directly to support the following strategic initiatives.

	Initiative	*£*
2003-04 to 2004-05	Development of a Thames Gateway Arts Strategy (includes Bexley)	67,500
2006-07	Production of an arts strategy for the borough	20,000
2007-08	Thames Gateway Dance Partnership (includes Bexley)	30,000

Bingo

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last met bingo operators to discuss the state of the industry. [192437]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I met representatives of the Bingo Association, the main trade body for the sector, on 18 October 2007.

Officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have regular meetings with the association.

Conferences

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was to his Department of hiring the Emirates Stadium for the first seminar of the Convergence Think Tank on 7 February. [193133]

Andy Burnham: The total cost of the first Convergence Think Tank seminar at the Emirates Stadium on 7 February 2008 was £13,13633. The cost was met by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which has joint responsibility for the Convergence Think Tank.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to post on his Department's website the papers submitted for the second seminar of the Convergence Think Tank held on 29 February. [193134]

Andy Burnham: The second seminar of the Convergence Think Tank will be held on 18 March. All papers submitted will be posted on the Think Tank website as soon as practicable after they are received.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191492]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the Annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

Further details can be found in my Department's "Value for Money Delivery Agreement" available on our website, www.culture.gov.uk. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191524]

Margaret Hodge: The information relating to how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited in each of the last three years by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is contained in the following table.

	New entrants over 55
2004-05	1
2005-06	1
2006-07	4

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average percentage pay increase awarded to Civil Service staff at grade 6 equivalent and above in his Department was in each year from 2002 to 2007. [190621]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table.

	Percentage
2002	5.7
2003	4.5
2004	3.6
2005	4.1
2006	3.3
2007	2.7

The increase relates to the increase in base pay.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192055]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following on pot plants since October 2005. Information prior to this date is not available.

	Amount (£)
October 2005 to March 2006	8,217.01
April 2006 to March 2007	22,078.31
April 2007 to March 2008	24,064.88

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192990]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department owns six residential properties. None of these are vacant.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179881]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Recruitment to the civil service on the grounds of nationality is statutorily based. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2206-207W.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on translation services by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07; and how much has been spent in 2007-08. [187987]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has spent the following on translation services:

	Translation service	£
(a) 2003-04	No translations during this year.	0
(b) 2004-05	Public appointments leaflet (Welsh)	100
	Review of the BBC's Royal Charter: A strong BBC, independent of government Green Paper and leaflet (Welsh)	6,995
	Licensing Act Guidelines publication (Welsh)	8,610
	Digital TV Guide publication (Welsh)	125
(c) 2005-06	Licensing Act 2003—leaflet (Welsh, Turkish, Greek, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Urdu, Chinese, Arabic and Kurdish)	850
	Licensing Act 2003—advertising in ethnic media	1,530
	A public service for all: the BBC in the digital age White Paper and leaflet (Welsh)	4,420
	Lottery Consultation publication (Welsh)	725
(d) 2006-07	Welcome Legacy: Tourism strategy for the 2012 games—a consultation document and leaflet (Welsh)	2,945
	BBC Charter Agreement—publication (Welsh)	4,250
	Licensing Guidance document (Welsh)	8,370
(e) To date in 2007-08	Our Promise for 2012 report and leaflet (Welsh)	2,074
	Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond document and executive summary (Welsh)	4,550
	Regulatory Reform Order document (Welsh)	2,750

The DCMS's associated agency, the Royal Parks, have not translated any material during the periods listed.

Costs for translation services provided by non-departmental bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the departmental guidance Travel and Subsistence and the Ministerial Code, taking account of value for money principle.

The Department does not analyse travel costs by modes or class of travel and the required information can be obtained only at disproportionate costs. The Department's agency, the Royal Parks, did not incur expenditure on travel by first class.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 323-4W, on digital switchover help scheme: finance, and following the appointment of Eaga as the preferred supplier, if he will place in the Library the report on the methodology and assumptions used to develop a model to estimate the costs of the help scheme; and provide the information requested in questions *(a)* 184257, *(b)* 184270, *(c)* 184274 and *(d)* 184468, tabled by the hon. Member for Bath on 18 February 2008. [189971]

Andy Burnham: I have am arranging to place in the Library of both Houses a report which sets out the methodology and assumptions used to develop a model to estimate the costs of the help scheme.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187753]

Margaret Hodge: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the departmental guidance on travel and subsistence and the Ministerial Code, taking account of value for money principle.

The Departmental expenditure on travel by Eurostar in the past months (to January 2008) was £35,538. The Department's agency, the Royal Parks, had no expenditure on Eurostar.

The travel costs are not desegregated by the class or mode of travel and the Department would incur disproportionate costs if it were to analyse them in the format requested.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2171W, on gambling licences, how many applications for premises licences were *(a)* received, *(b)* withdrawn, *(c)* declined and *(d)* revoked in each year since April 2005, broken down by region. [190555]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No regional breakdown is available for the information requested. Under the Gaming Act 1968 licensed operators were required to renew their gaming premises licence with the local licensing body each year. In addition, operators with a new certificate of consent from the Gambling Commission could apply for a new gaming premises licence.

The following table shows the figures for new applications for bingo gaming premises licences to local licensing bodies but does not show details of any licences granted in respect of applications for extensions to, or substitutes for, existing premises. Local licensing bodies did not possess powers of revocation under the Gaming Act 1968.

Bingo applications	*Received*	*Withdrawn*	*Declined*
1 April 2005 to March 31 2006	10	2	1
1 April 2006 to March 31 2007	10	1	0
1 April 2007 to March 1 2008	4	1	0

Not all of the equivalent figures for casino gaming premises licences under the Gaming Act 1968 were collated centrally but, between 1 April 2005 and 1 March 2008, 36 applications for additional casino gaming licences were granted by local licensing bodies under the Gaming Act 1968. This figure does not include details of any licences granted in respect of applications for extensions to, or substitutes for, existing premises.

Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, the 13 additional casino gaming licences were granted in the following locations: Aberdeen, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Leeds, London (two), Nottingham, Reading, Stockton on Tees, Swansea, Warley (Oldbury).

Between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007, the 14 additional casino gaming licences were granted in the following locations: Aberdeen, Coventry, Edinburgh, Glasgow (three), Great Yarmouth, Kingston upon Hull, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Northampton, Sheffield and Southend-on-Sea.

Between 1 April 2007 and 1 March 2008, nine additional casino gaming licences were granted in the following locations: Bournemouth, Bradford, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, London, Nottingham, Reading, Sheffield and Wolverhampton.

Figures by region for premises licences under the 2005 Act, which came into effect on 1 September 2007, are not yet available. Licensing authorities are responsible for considering, issuing and revoking gambling premises licences under the 2005 Act. Not all authorities have completed their returns to the Gambling Commission, which will be publishing figures on the number of premises licences later in 2008.

Horse Racing

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future of horseracing; and if he will make a statement. [192292]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government note the contribution of racecourses to local economies and would like to see British horseracing continue to flourish. Racing is at the heart of the sporting and cultural life of this country and the Government feel sure this will continue.

Our view is that racing should be free to look after its own affairs, without unnecessary Government intervention. This is possible now that a robust licensing framework, overseen by the Gambling Commission, and a competent regulatory authority, the British Horseracing Authority, are in place.

Licensing: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to regulate the number of special offers on alcohol made in shops and off-licences. [191417]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A key element of the Government renewed alcohol strategy Safe. Sensible. Social., published in June 2007, commissioned a detailed academic study to look at the evidence on the relation between alcohol price, promotion and harm. The results of this study will be published this summer and any new necessary action will be announced in due course.

Where alcohol sales promotions at an individual premises can be shown to have a negative impact on the licensing objectives, it is possible to review the licence, and add appropriate conditions to restrict such promotions at that premises.

National Lottery: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was granted by the National Lottery to schemes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* London in each financial year since 1997-98; and how much funding per head of population this represented in each such area in each year. [192524]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures for the total value of grants awarded during the financial years and the areas requested are set out in these tables. The population figures used are the mid-2006 estimates of the Office for National Statistics.

England population: 50,763,000

£

Financial year	*England*	*Per capita*
1997-98	1,163,450,037	22.91
1998-99	934,456,531	18.41
1999-2000	1,289,537,594	25.40
2000-01	1,236,024,633	24.35
2001-02	1,479,171,604	29.14
2002-03	1,381,108,283	27.21
2003-04	1,215,828,467	23.95
2004-05	1,000,640,823	19.71
2005-06	905,191,441	17.83
2006-07	691,917,342	13.63
2007 to date	871,967,982	17.18

Scotland population: 5,116,900

£

Financial year	*Scotland*	*Per capita*
1997-98	167,921,533	32.82
1998-99	110,345,558	21.56
1999-2000	157,096,865	30.70
2000-01	94,303,915	18.43
2001-02	163,535,481	31.96
2002-03	173,818,430	33.97
2003-04	139,054,838	27.18
2004-05	157,921,097	30.86
2005-06	123,526,558	24.14
2006-07	100,110,306	19.56
2007 to date	97,670,401	19.08

Wales population: 2,965,900

£

Financial year	*Wales*	*Per capita*
1997-98	98,247,270	33.13
1998-99	52,827,424	17.81
1999-2000	87,171,252	29.39
2000-01	77,635,099	26.18
2001-02	78,277,480	26.39
2002-03	86,456,596	29.15
2003-04	76,991,971	25.96
2004-05	93,237,601	31.44
2005-06	58,823,765	19.83
2006-07	63,301,568	21.34
2007 to date	44,855,291	15.12

London population: 7,512,400

£

Financial year	*London*	*Per capita*
1997-98	315,881,923	42.05
1998-99	339,108,851	45.14
1999-2000	320,891,241	42.71
2000-01	336,669,510	44.82
2001-02	366,167,110	48.74
2002-03	415,103,887	55.26
2003-04	360,532,200	47.99
2004-05	233,389,539	31.07
2005-06	280,739,675	37.37
2006-07	181,265,529	24.13
2007 to date	176,992,643	23.56

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributor.

Own Art Scheme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Own Art scheme; how many outlets were participating in the scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; how many individuals have taken part in the scheme since its inception; and how much funding his Department provided for the scheme in each of the last three years. [191373]

Margaret Hodge: Own Art is an Arts Council initiative. Through ArtCo Trading Ltd, the Own Art scheme has received £500,000 in 2005-06, £378,000 in 2006-07, and £366,000 in 2007-08, in grant funding. There are currently 230 Own Art member galleries in England. Since the launch in April 2004 to end January 2008, a total of 9,882 customers successfully applied for an Own Art loan.

The last full evaluation of the scheme was published in May 2007 and reported on the 18 month period 1 October 2005 to 31 March 2007. 28 per cent. of the customer base described themselves as 'first time buyers'. 30 per cent. of Own Art customers were on income levels below the national average and 82 per cent. of customers said that the scheme had enabled them to make their purchase.

A further evaluation report on the impact of the Own Art scheme on artists is due to be published at the end of March.

Playgrounds: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery made to the schools playgrounds scheme in each of the last five years; and what contributions he expects to be made in each of the next three years. [191876]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In April 2005 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, announced a £2 million investment to extend the Sporting Playgrounds programme which is also funded through the DCSF. This scheme refurbishes existing primary school playgrounds to enhance opportunities for sporting activity. Over 600 primary school playgrounds have been developed since the programme began in 2001.

There are no plans for a Sporting Playgrounds programme over the next three years.

The following table shows the total value of grants on the Department's Lottery Grants Database during the last five completed financial years, where the name of the project title or description is recorded as either "school playgrounds", "schools playgrounds" or "school playground". Lottery distributing bodies make grant decisions independently of the Government.

Financial year	*Total grant value (£)*
2002-03	131,136
2003-04	492,337
2004-05	13,000
2005-06	96,654
2006-07	204,012

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributor.

Public Libraries: Closures

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of municipal public libraries which have closed since 1997-98. [191663]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2174W.

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to each of the regional cultural consortiums in each of the last five years. [191363]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has provided the following funding to each of the regional cultural consortiums in each of the last five years.

Regional cultural consortiums outturn

£000

	Outturn				*Plans*
Regional cultural consortium	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Living East	180	209	233	215	226
Culture South East	205	209	224	215	226
Culture North East	197	210	221	215	219
Culture North West	208	209	223	215	226
Yorkshire Culture	208	209	221	215	226
Culture East Midlands	141	210	236	215	265
Invest to save, creating cultural opportunity in sustainable communities	—	—	—	203	285
Culture South West	206	209	222	215	226
Culture West Midlands	223	209	261	215	221

[1] Following winter supplementary estimate.

Sport

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that members of the public are involved in developing strategies to encourage sport and physical recreation in their communities; and if he will make a statement. [192707]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has been asked by the Secretary of State to develop a new strategy and business plan for the delivery of community sport in England. During January 2008, Sport England invited existing stakeholders to submit views to the organisation on its future direction and strategy. Once the headline strategy has been agreed by the Secretary of State, Sport England intends to conduct further consultation. This will include another round with stakeholders and an open consultation—for the standard three month period—on the proposed resulting changes to lottery grant application criteria. The consultation process will offer any member of the public or group the opportunity to comment on and influence the proposed changes.

Sportsgrounds

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the owners of sports grounds that have not been used for regular sporting activities for a period of more than two years are required to bring them back into use; and if he will make a statement; [192704]

(2) if he will impose a charge on the owners of sports grounds that are not used for regular sporting activity for a period of more than two years; and if he will make a statement. [192705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no power to either require owners of sports grounds to bring back into use grounds not used for regular sporting activities for a period of more than two years or to charge such owners if they are not so used. However, Sport England must be consulted if land has been used as a playing field in the five years before the making of a planning application. Planning guidance to local authorities is clear: no playing field needed by the community should be removed. In addition, Sport England object to all applications that would result in a loss of playing fields, unless there is a clear benefit to sport.

Swimming Pools

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the my hon. Friend the Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1617-18W, on swimming pools, how many of the pools in each category in the table are or were in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector; and how many swimming pools there are in England. [192802]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active Places database shows that there are currently 4,614 swimming pools in England.

Pools opened since 2004 by ownership type

	Total	Local authority	Commercial	Education	Other
2004	117	17	73	25	2
2005	93	18	57	16	2
2006	87	20	55	11	1
2007	57	19	22	14	2
Total	354	74	207	66	7

Pools closed since 2004 by ownership type

	Total	Local authority	Commercial	Education	Others
2004	13	5	4	4	0
2005	60	32	15	11	2
2006	58	23	12	21	2
2007	33	9	12	12	0
Total	164	69	43	48	4

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* internationally recognised definition and *(b)* definition used by Sport England is of (i) swimming pool and (i) diving pool. [192804]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For the purposes of collecting information for the Active Places database, Sport England's definitions are as follows:

A swimming pool is an enclosed area of water, indoor or outdoor, specifically maintained for all forms of water based sport and recreation; for example, general swimming, teaching, training, diving, club and school use.

Sport England defines a diving pool as being a separate pool specifically for diving which is usually square and deeper than the main pool.

We understand from the Amateur Swimming Association, the national governing body for swimming and diving, that there are no internationally recognised definitions for the terms swimming pool or diving pool.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools listed on the Active Places website are co-located with one or more other pools on the list. [192805]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In November 2007, there were 4,614 swimming pools on 3,461 sites listed on the Active Places database. 921 of the sites have more than one swimming pool.

Take It Away Instrument Scheme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the Take It Away instrument scheme in each of the last three years; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the scheme in promoting learning a musical instrument; how many outlets were participating in the scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many people have participated in the scheme since its inception. [191398]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: Take it Away is an Arts Council initiative and was launched as a national scheme in July 2007. Through ArtCo Trading Ltd, the Take it Away scheme has received £165,000 in 2006-07, and £625,000 in 2007-08, in grant funding.

There are currently 91 member retailers across England. This is expected to increase to 250 from April/May 2008.

For the first six months (July to December 2007) a total of 3,849 loans have been taken out by customers.

The scheme is open to anyone but has the following target groups:

Those buying an instrument for a child or young person under 18;

Those buying an instrument for the first time (of any age);

Those on lower than the average national income (£22,500).

The first six month report shows that 82.72 per cent. of customers to date fall within at least one of the three priority groups: Over a quarter (29.8 per cent.) of instruments have been bought for a young person; almost half (46.03 per cent.) of all loans have been taken out by customers on incomes less than £22,500 per annum; and almost half (47.93 per cent.) of all loans have provided instruments for people who have classed themselves as a beginner or adult re-starter. 57.6 per cent. of customers fall into the socio-economic grade A, B and C1 and 42.4 per cent. fall into socio-economic grades C2, D and E collectively.

The Arts Council's view is that it is too early at this stage to assess the longer term impact and effectiveness of the scheme in promoting the learning of musical instruments. However, the strong uptake in the first six months suggests that the scheme is having an impact in generating interest and engagement from a broad cross section of the community.

Irish Television Channel: UK

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with the Irish Government on establishing a dedicated Irish television channel for Irish people living in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [181764]

Andy Burnham: My right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) met with Eamon Ryan TD, the Irish Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, on 22 January 2008, to discuss a number of issues. The subject of establishing a dedicated Irish television channel for broadcast in the UK was raised, but no firm decisions have been made.

Television: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what restrictions are in place on the advertisement of *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* food high in fats, salt and sugar, *(c)* gambling and *(d)* 18 classified content on television (i) during programmes for children and young people, (ii) before the watershed and (iii) at all other times; what assessment he has made of the prevalence of these types of advertising during these times; and if he will make a statement. [191016]

Andy Burnham: Under the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice rules, regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), strict controls are in place prohibiting the advertising of all these products in or adjacent to children's programmes.

Foods high in fat, salt and sugar may not be advertised in or adjacent to programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to audiences below the age of 16. This prohibition is extended to audiences below the age of 18 for alcohol and gambling products. In addition to these rules, the gambling industry has drawn up a voluntary code for socially responsible advertising which includes a ban on all broadcast gambling advertising before the 9 pm watershed.

Trailers for films or videos carrying an 18- or 15-certificate may not be advertised in or adjacent to programmes which are of particular appeal to children under 10. However, depending on the content and, in particular, the extent and nature of any portrayal of violence or sexual activity, an alternative timing restriction such as post 7.30 pm or post 9 pm may often be appropriate for such material.

Advertising of all these products is permitted at other times with the exception of a specific restriction on the advertising of alcohol products in or between religious programmes.

Both Government and Ofcom are committed to review the impact of the new rules on broadcast food promotion to children. The ASA has also recently carried out monitoring and compliance surveys for alcohol, food and drink and gambling advertising. In addition to this specific work, the ASA will be undertaking a review of all advertising codes during 2008.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Fees and Charges

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether charges to newspapers to supply court lists to them reflect the cost of collating the information. [192906]

Maria Eagle: Statutory fee charges in HM Courts Service are set to recover full cost for the work undertaken by both administrative staff and judiciary. Photocopying fee charges are calculated by averaging out the time spent by admin staff when conducting any form of photocopying function requested by the court user. The magistrates courts are the only court that provides extracts of the court register (regarding criminal outcomes) for publication in a newspaper. The cost covers the time spent to undertake this duty.

Constituencies

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on constituencies, what the timetable is of the review of legislation on boundary rules. [192189]

Bridget Prentice: We are currently considering the arrangements for this review and will be making an announcement shortly. We estimate that, once it starts, the review should take about a year to complete.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to exclude inquests relating to deaths in the course of military operations from use of the powers in the Counter-Terrorism Bill to appoint a specially appointed coroner. [191868]

Bridget Prentice: It is proposed that the provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Bill, which amend the Coroners Act 1988, will apply to all inquests. These provisions enable the Secretary of State to certify that an inquest will involve consideration of material that could not be disclosed publicly without damaging the public interest and this could include inquests relating to deaths arising from military operations. However, it is anticipated that these proposals will affect a very limited number of cases in exceptional circumstances, and they would have had no application to inquests already held into deaths arising from military operations as none have been held with juries. The proposals allow for an inquest to be held without a jury and for the appointment of a security vetted coroner who will only be appointed if the coroner who would ordinarily have jurisdiction is not among those who have received such clearance. These provisions will ensure that the small number of inquests which engage both article 2 of the ECHR and involve material that cannot be disclosed publicly can proceed.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to exclude inquests relating to deaths caused by friendly fire from use of the powers in the Counter-Terrorism Bill to *(a)* certify that a coroner's inquest be held without a jury and *(b)* appoint a specially appointed coroner. [191869]

Bridget Prentice: It is proposed that the provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Bill, which amend the Coroners Act 1988, will apply to all inquests. These provisions enable the Secretary of State to certify that an inquest will involve consideration of material that could not be disclosed publicly without damaging the public interest and this could include inquests relating to deaths arising from friendly fire incidents. However, it is anticipated that these proposals will affect a very limited number of cases in exceptional circumstances, and they would have had no application to inquests already held into deaths arising from friendly fire incidents as none have been held with juries. The proposals allow for an inquest to be held without a jury and for the appointment of a security vetted coroner who will only be appointed if the coroner who would ordinarily have jurisdiction is not among those who have received such clearance. These provisions will ensure that the small number of inquests which engage both article 2 of the ECHR and involve material that cannot be disclosed publicly can proceed.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent by the Department for Constitutional Affairs on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* agency staff in the financial years (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; [191882]

(2) how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* agency staff were employed by the Department for Constitutional Affairs at the end of the financial year 2004-05. [191952]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his predecessor Department on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* agency staff in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [192505]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure and the number of contracts let with external consultants, in the years 2004 to 2007, were as follows:

	Number of consultancy contracts let	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2004-05	103	10.6
2005-06	247	15.5
2006-07	119	10.7

The Department has a national framework agreement for the provision of administrative, secretarial and clerical staff. Expenditure and average number of agency workers engaged via that framework, in the years 2004-07, were as follows:

	Average number of agency workers	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2004-05	395	8.7
2005-06	722	10.5
2006-07	600	8.08

Expenditure relating to workers engaged outside this framework, with other employment agencies, is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187960]

Mr. Straw: It is not possible to list the amount spent on alcohol in the last 12 months without incurring disproportionate costs as it is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts.

Entertainment costs for the last financial year can be broken down as follows:

	Entertainment costs (£)
Former DCA	30,657.37
HMCS	20,240.27
Tribunals	1,653.70
OCJR	35,156.29

NOMS, HMPS, and OPG cannot separately identify entertainment costs from their accounts. These costs may be identified only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on alcohol and hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety which is based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and supported by the Department's published internal guidance.

All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [191526]

Bridget Prentice: The requested figures are in the following table.

Ministry of Justice Agencies staff over 55 years of age, headcount over the past three financial years

			Headcou[illegible]
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-*[illegible][3]
Ministry of Justice Headquarters			
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs (excl. agencies)[1]	10	10	12
Ministry of Justice Agencies			
HM Courts Service[1]	110	170	118
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	0	0	3
Tribunals Service[1]	0	0	0
Office of Criminal Justice Reform[1]	0	0	1
National Offender Management Service[1]	0	9	3
HM Prison Service[2]	340	270	270
Ministry of Justice total	460	459	407

[1] Source: Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

[2] Source: Personnel Corporate Database and Oracle HRMS.

[3] 2006-07 figures by age breakdown are from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey where available. For those Departments and agencies who completed a departmental return and an age analysis from the Survey is not available, figures are derived from the Personnel Corporate Database.

Departmental Planning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the new planning management system in his Department will ensure efficient use of available resources. [188048]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to introduce a new planning management system into prisons or probation areas.

Announced on 8 January 2008, the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS Programme will, whilst continuing the successful roll-out of Prison NOMIS into all public prisons, ensure the urgent replacement of at-risk probation case management systems, and through the "Data Share" project allow staff involved in offender management access to core information held within custody and the community via a simple read-only data sharing mechanism. In addition, the programme will also improve the current separate prison and probation risk assessment systems, and re-develop them as a single national system.

This agreed direction will enable improved business continuity by replacing ailing legacy case and risk assessment management systems. The programme will also enable more efficient and effective operational management of offenders in support of offender management, reducing re-offending and enhancing public protection. Both supplier neutral information to support commissioners and improved management information to enable improved performance will be more readily available as a result of the work being undertaken by the programme.

Departmental Reorganisation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he expects to be saved as a result of the reorganisation of his Department as announced on 29 January; and how the savings will be used. [191907]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice is committed to deliver 5 per cent. real reductions per annum in administration budgets under the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The reorganisation will help the Department to deliver this challenge by removing duplication of functions and focusing the Department on its four key policy and delivery areas: Democracy, Constitution and Law; Access to Justice; NOMS delivery; and Criminal Justice and Offender Management Strategy. Further details are in the Department's Value for Money Delivery Agreement which was published on 18 February 2008.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken through the reorganisation of his Department to remove duplication of responsibilities. [191917]

Mr. Hanson: In the written ministerial statement of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 8WS, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced changes to the high level structure for the Department, which would allow a more joined up approach to issues of justice and constitutional reform and with a clearer focus on efficiency through the removal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities. Departmental officials are currently working on the detail of these changes before the top structure comes into effect on 1 April.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultations were held with trades unions and other stakeholders prior to the announcement on 29 January of the reorganisation of his Department. [191918]

Mr. Straw: Ministers and officials maintain a regular dialogue with trade unions and a wide range of stakeholders. The re-organisation of the Department was announced first to Parliament, but officials met members of NAPO and the Prison Officers' Association during the progress of the review to update them on general progress, and discussions also took place on a number of occasions with the senior judiciary.

Elections: Fraud

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to issue to a formal response to the opinion of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe on the application to initiate a monitoring procedure to investigate electoral fraud in the United Kingdom; and what response he has made to its recommendations on *(a)* introducing individual electoral registration and *(b)* checking 100 per cent. of personal identifiers on returned postal ballots. [192192]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have noted the Committee's findings, and that it has not recommended opening a monitoring procedure with respect to the United Kingdom. I understand that the opinion will now be considered by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Government will await the outcome of the Bureau's consideration of the opinion before deciding whether it would be appropriate to issue a formal response to the opinion.

The Government's position on the particular issues highlighted by the hon. Member is as follows:

(a) The Government support the principle of individual registration but it has not been determined how it could be implemented without causing significant numbers of eligible people to fall off the register. We will wish to explore the issues involved with key stakeholders.

(b) I refer the hon. Member to the earlier answer on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 432W, which explained the Government's position on the checking of returned postal votes. The Government are committed to the principle that 100 per cent. of returned postal votes should be checked, and will wish to work with the Electoral Commission, electoral administrators and software suppliers in order to establish when it will be appropriate and safe to mandate 100 per cent. checking of returned postal votes.

Employment Tribunals

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to making the decisions of employment tribunals available free-of-charge on the internet. [186815]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service has decided to delay providing Employment Tribunal (ET) judgments on the internet until Caseflow (the computerised ET case management system) is developed and rolled out across the regional ET offices. Once installed, Caseflow will make it easier and more resource efficient to upload judgements automatically to the ET website. Caseflow will be piloted this autumn and national rollout will depend on the results of the pilot.

Financial Reporting Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many financial reporting orders have been issued by courts. [187293]

Mr. Straw: According to the statistical records reported by courts to the Ministry of Justice, there have been no financial reporting orders given as a primary disposal since they were introduced in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (2005).

Licensed Premises: Closures

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many closure notices were issued by police or licensing authorities when alcohol was found to have been sold other than under the condition of the licence in each of the years since the coming into force of section 19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. [191311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

National Identity

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost has been to date of the consultation on the process of public engagement to develop a British statement of values; [192603]

(2) what external consultancy costs have been incurred to date in developing the process of public engagement to develop a British statement of values. [192604]

Mr. Straw: No additional costs have been incurred for consultation on the process of public engagement.

We have been working with consultants to support development of the process for public engagement on a British statement of values. This has been provided at a cost of £5,000.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has budgeted for the proposed Citizens' Summit on a British statement of values; and when this summit will take place. [192605]

Mr. Straw: We are currently working in partnership with the Central Office of Information (COI) on the tender process for the Citizens' Summit, which will determine the budget. We expect the summit to take place by early 2009.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff will be redeployed from the *(a)* National Offender Management Service and *(b)* Prison Service headquarters as a result of the changes announced on 29 January 2008 on his Department's reorganisation; [191913]

(2) how many staff will be employed in the merged HM Prison Service and the National Offender Management Service headquarters from 1 April 2008; and what the projected number is for 1 April 2009. [191954]

Mr. Hanson: Staffing projections for 1 April 2008 to April 2009 are currently under way to produce more accurate projections that take into account the structural changes to the Department. We are currently planning how many staff will need to be redeployed in the new National Offender Management Service organisation, but any such activity will be consistent with the recommendations of Lord Carter of Coles' review of prisons in December 2007. Only top level management changes will come into effect on 1 April 2008, with more general staffing reorganisation expected some months from now.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were employed in the headquarters of *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* HM Prison Service at the latest date for which information is available. [191953]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is in the following table:

	Full-time equivalents
	Number of people employed as at February 2008
National Offender Management Service	1,623
HM Prison Service[1]	1,293

[1] Excludes area offices and the National Shared Service Centre.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on *(a)* Operation Safeguard and *(b)* the use of court cells by prisoners since May 1997. [178762]

Mr. Straw: Police cells were used to hold prisoners regularly from 1982 until 1993 and from 1994 to 1995, and use peaked when more than 1,000 prisoners a night were being regularly held in police cells in 1988 and in 1990 to 1992 (based on end of month data).

Since 1997, Operation Safeguard was used between July and December 2002, when an average of 83 prisoners a night were held in police cells, at a cost of £10.4 million. It was used again between 12 October 2006 and 22 December 2006 (an average of 22 prisoners a night in police cells) and from 16 January 2007 to date (the average for 2007 was 181 prisoners a night in police cells). Since October 2006 payments of £35.6 million have so far been made in respect of Operation Safeguard.

Court cells were used between January and June 2007 and were used again in February this year to accommodate prisoners overnight. Invoices to the value of £1.73 million have been paid to date.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per night of housing a prisoner in a police station is. [189750]

Mr. Straw: Police forces provide cells through Operation Safeguard and charge NOMS for doing so. The average estimated cost of holding a prisoner in a police cell under Operation Safeguard is currently in the region of £385 per night.

Powers of Entry: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the commencement of the provisions of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 that relate to the powers of bailiffs to enter homes. [192188]

Maria Eagle: My Department remains committed to implementing the provisions relating to the power of bailiffs to enter homes contained in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

A scoping exercise has now commenced to determine the development of these, and the results will inform the timetable for consultation and implementation. We expect this timetable to be written by May 2008.

Prison Accommodation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were accommodated on 22 February in *(a)* police cells, *(b)* court cells, *(c)* ClearSprings accommodation, *(d)* cells with a certified normal capacity of (i) one and (ii) two fewer than the number of people they were holding, *(e)* cells which do not form part of the prison's normal accommodation and *(f)* any other form of temporary or emergency accommodation. [189815]

Mr. Straw: On the night of 21-22 February there were 289 prisoners in police cells and 69 in court cells.

ClearSprings accommodation is not for prisoners and no prisoners are held in it. Rather, it is for defendants who have been granted bail by the courts and who, but for that accommodation, would be remanded in custody. It is also for offenders nearing the end of their sentence released on home detention curfew and who also, but for that accommodation, would still be in prison. Prison Governors decide whether a prisoner who is eligible for HDC can be released.

Information on the number of prisoners doubled in cells intended for one or trebled in cells intended for two on 22 February is not yet available. The most recent figures available are from the end of January when 20,055 prisoners were held in such cells. Data are provisional and final figures are published following the year end. Our records show that no prisoners are currently trebled in cells intended for one.

An establishment's certified normal accommodation (CNA) does not normally include cells in punishment or segregation units. Nor does the CNA of training prisons and young offender institutions normally include health care cells or rooms that are not routinely used to accommodate long stay patients. The information regarding prisoners held in these types of accommodation is not recorded centrally.

No prison is expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that which the Prison Service area manager (or regional offender manager in the case of a contracted prison) considers safe.

There are no other forms of temporary or emergency accommodation used for prisoners.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision is made by each contracted-out prison for *(a)* prisoner education, *(b)* work placements, *(c)* work in the community and *(d)* programmes designed to provide prisoners with employment upon release from prison. [188249]

Maria Eagle: Information on prisoner education, work placements, work in the community and programmes designed to provide prisoners with employment upon release in each contracted prison is provided in the tables as follows.

Prisoner education

	Educational courses provided for prisoners
Altcourse	Prisoners have access to 15 hours of education per week plus 2 evening classes. This includes a range of activities that can lead to qualifications that support them upon release. This includes ESOL, IT, Literacy and Numeracy.
Ashfield	All prisoners have 24 hours of taught education per week and 1 hour informed education across a variety of areas. Classes include Art, IT, Life and Social Skills, Literacy, Music, Numeracy, PE.
Bronzefield	Six hours a day Education provision focusing primarily on Art, Basic Skills, ESOL, IT, Literacy, Numeracy.
Doncaster	Business Admin, ESOL, Industrial Cleaning, IT, Islamic Studies, Key Skills, Literacy, Numeracy, Pottery, Social Skills, Various sports programmes including BAWLA and Star Awards.
Dovegate	Business Studies, Ceramics, Circuit Training, ECDL, ESOL, Essential Skills, Family and Relationships, Get Fit for Life, IT, ITQ, Key Skills, Literacy, Numeracy, Open University, Social Life Skills
Forest Bank	Adult Basic Skills, Art, Budget and Money Management, Business Studies, Citizenship, Conflict Management, ESOL, Family Relations, Healthy Living, IT OCR, IT CLAIT, Literacy, Numeracy, Physical and Recreational Training Course, Skills for Life.
Lowdham Grange	Arabic, Community Sports Leader Award, Creative Writing, Diversity, Distance Learning, Drug Awareness ESOL, French, German, Interpersonal Skills, IT courses, Key Skills, Learning Support Assistant Training, Literacy, Numeracy, Older People in Sports, Open University, Spanish, Social and Life Skills, Sport and Recreation, Turkish, YMCA Fitness.
Parc	Art—Pottery /Painting and Drawing, Basic PC Course, Certificate in Peer Partnership, ICT—Clait, Clait+, Design and Creative Studies, Fine Art, Numeracy, YMCA Gym Course, Numeracy Qualifications offered exclusively on the Young Persons Unit: British Sign Language, Music.
Peterborough	ESOL, Literacy, Numeracy, Paper Craft, Physical Well Being, Reflexology
Rye Hill	Art, Basic skills in Numeracy and Literacy, Business Studies, Cookery, Drama, Distance Learning course, English, ESOL, Healthy Lifestyles, IT, Maths, Open University course.
Wolds	Accounts, Agility and Fitness, Art/Ceramics, Business Studies, Boxercise, BWLA Leaders, Citizenship, COSHH, CSLA, FA Football Coaching, FA Football Refereeing, Focus Fitness Instructor, Foundation in Speed, Foundation in Exercise and Fitness, Geography, Heartstart, History, IT ECDL, IT ECDL Advanced, IT CLAIT 2006, IT CLAIT Plus, IT Courses, Introduction to British Animals/Birds/Insects, Key Skills, Literacy, Numeracy, National Safety Passport, Open University, Parenting, Peer Tutoring, Social and Life Skills, Spanish, University Foundation Award Sociology (Hull University), University Foundation Award Psychology (Hull University)

Work placement

	Prisoners placed with an employer for work experience
Altcourse	None
Ashfield	Work placements are provided via the ROTL process. All placements are risk assessed by the Health and Safety Officer and Resettlement or PE staff help to prepare a young person for release. These include Avon and Somerset Fire Service (office, catering, shadowing), Wessex Water (water works technician), Create Cafe, Frenchay Forestry, John Parsons Building Co. Riverside Youth Project (working with disengaged children), Community Sports Volunteers, Next Generation (Gym Assistant)
Bronzefield	None
Doncaster	None
Dovegate	None
Forest Bank	None
Lowdham Grange	None
Parc	Due to difficulties encountered because of the nature of the establishment, it is very difficult to satisfy Release On Temporary Licence requirements. Parc are committed to re-categorisation of prisoners and transferring them to open conditions as soon as is possible. Parc currently have three established work placements that have placed over 40 serving prisoners in the last 12 months in: A local community transport organisation. A community based youth centre. A local council. They are also committed to using serving prisoners to undertake essential building and maintenance work directly outside the prison grounds. This provides practical experience to enhance skills learned within the prison.
Peterborough	None
Rye Hill	None
Wolds	None

Work in the community

	Voluntary work in the community
Altcourse	None
Ashfield	Avon and Somerset Fire Service, People's Charity/allotment project, Create Cafe, Warmley Park Special Needs school project, painting Rodford Way local primary School, painting Pucklechurch Primary School, Tree Planting Goblin Combe, Fairbridge, Prince's Trust, Duke of Edinburgh, Carmel Church, Volunteering at local sports events e.g. cross country runs, swimming galas.
Bronzefield	None
Doncaster	As a core remand local, work in the community is limited. However, opportunities for community work via release on temporary licence (ROTL), include assisting the Environment Agency to clear local riverbeds and providing literacy support, advice and guidance at a centre for disadvantaged individuals including ex offenders.
Dovegate	None
Forest Bank	None
Lowdham Grange	None
Parc	Involvement in manufacture of replica stocks, refurbishment of a three hundred year old church and churchyard, education and training for prisoners in lime plastering to be used in refurbishing a 700 year-old town wall. Other projects the establishment is involved in: Local Boys and Girls Club—The establishment built and installed a refreshment area, which occupied three prisoners for eight months. Local Youth and Community Centre Climbing Wall—A number of prisoners were involved in the installation of a climbing wall in a local youth centre. This project will now continue with active participation from physical training instructors and suitably qualified prisoners from the establishment. Schools—The establishment is currently involved with three local schools. Football Club—The establishment is currently involved with the oldest football club in the Welsh League.

Work in the community

	Voluntary work in the community
	Parc are currently evaluating nine local projects that have approached the establishment for help.
Peterborough	One prisoner has achieved a diploma in Holistic Therapies and is attending two voluntary positions on ROTL
Rye Hill	None
Wolds	None

Programmes designed to provide prisoners with employment upon release from prison

	Programmes or accredited courses that are designed to provide prisoners with skills to find work on release
Altcourse	Engineering, Catering, Sports and Leisure, Mechanics, Bricklaying, Plastering, Joinery and Decorating. A partnership is in place with Railtrack—Network Rail, providing training that leads to employment in the railway industry. Job fairs have been run in the prison inviting employers to meet prisoners returning to the local area. These have led to opportunities for employment for some prisoners. Altcourse have links with agencies such as Job Centre Plus, Connexions and Working Links in order to assists offenders into employment and training. Offenders are given the opportunity to access temporary release from custody in order to attend interviews for jobs.
Ashfield	Duke of Edinburgh, Prince's Trust, The Sports Academy and Fire Skills course are all offered in Ashfield and help to prepare for Resettlement. There is a formal resettlement process which includes input from employers and guest speakers. All courses carry qualifications, which help the employment prospects for young people including Painting and Decorating, Carpentry, Motor Vehicles, Horticulture, Food Service, Construction, Design and Print, Industrial Cleaning, Laundry and Plumbing. Other programmes linked to resettlement include; Fork lift truck training, Wessex Water extended work placements, John Parsons Building.
Bronzefield	Kleaning Academy, Planned programme with major Gym Company to train prisoners using their staff training methods, Painting and Decorating Programme, proposed Call Centre giving Information Advice and Guidance (St. Giles Trust), Housing Advisor, Connections Workers
Doncaster	Accredited training is provided in Catering, Carpentry, Diagnostic Assessment, Food Hygiene, Motorcycles, Painting and Decorating. The Community Re-Entry Team interview 100 per cent. of prisoners for Housing Needs and provide a job club facility as well as one to one support in order to secure employment opportunities upon release. Local employers visit the prison to interview prisoners as does the Employment Development Manager who is responsible for regional networking in order to maximise employment and training opportunities for prisoners upon release.
Dovegate	A resettlement course is currently under development but not in place. Training is provided in Horticulture, Painting and Decorating, Plumbing, Electrical Installation, BICS Industrial Cleaning, Warehousing and Distribution, Performance and Manufacturing, Catering, Team Leadership, Careers and Management.
Forest Bank	Forklift Truck Course, Counter Balance Forklift Training, British Health and Safety Certificate, the Construction Skills Certificate, Manual Handling Course, Preparation for Work course, Food Preparation, Thinking Skills in the Workplace course, Manufacturing, Certificate in Health and Safety in the Work Place, Basic Electronics. Prisoners in the painting and decorating workshop have the opportunity to be employed through a construction scheme funded by work solutions.
Lowdham Grange	Contracts currently in operation providing prisoners with work skills are; Servicing NHS Wheelchairs, Electrical Contact Assembly, Electrical wiring/bulb reclamation, Catering hat manufacturing, Packaging of animal products, Re-packing jewellery, Manufacturing bedding and sheets, Warehousing and Distribution, Electrical cable assembly.
Parc	Prisoners are interviewed within twenty-four hours of entering custody to establish needs with regard to employment, training and education, housing and health and welfare issues. Market studies are also carried out to establish skill gaps and then provide the necessary practical focused training so that prisoners can target specific employment sectors upon release. Parc has partnership arrangements with Remploy, NACRO, Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind, Prince's Trust, ClearSprings, ESF, Welsh Assembly and NOMS. Training qualifications are provided in the following areas: BICS Industrial Cleaning, Train the Trainer and Assessor, Health and Safety, Manual Handling, Principles of COSHH, Food Safety in Catering, Basic Skills in Construction (Carpentry), Basic Skills in Construction (Painting and Decorating), Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Certificate in Horticultural Skills, Performing Manufacturing Operations, Performing Manufacturing Operations, Construction Industry Training Board Construction Skills Certificate Scheme. Qualifications offered exclusively on the Young Persons Unit: Certificate in Food Safety, Multi-Skilling (varied), Catering.
Peterborough	Kleaning Academy, Basic Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, Health and Safety, Bio-Hazard Training, Holistic Therapy Training, Beauty Therapy Training, Holistic and Beauty Therapy Delivery, Self Esteem Building, Yoga, Maintenance of Gardens and Grounds, Horticulture. The link centre also provides support for prisoners through their sentence and prepares them for release.
Rye Hill	Rye Hill currently do not run any programmes, but are in the process of setting up 'track works' which will provide prisoners with a 12 week training course in permanent way renewals. If prisoners are successful, they will be issued with a three year licence to work on railway maintenance.
Wolds	Institute of Professional Advertisers, Production of Glass Supporting Framework, Food Preparation and Cooking, Horticulture, Cleaning and Support Services, Track Laying and Maintenance, Library and Information, Electrical Installations 16th Edition, Introduction to work, Introduction to Self Employment, Manual Handling, Electrical Installations, Website Management, Database Integration and Management, Search Engine Optimisation Techniques, Online Marketing Techniques and Strategies, Content Provision (writing, researching and journalism), E-Business Consultancy, E-Customer Relationship Management.

Information has been provided by each individual contractor who manages the 11 contracted prisons as information is not held centrally.

Titan Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish the research which has been commissioned on the merits of Titan prisons; [191915]

(2) if he will publish the business case which led to the decision to open three Titan prisons in England. [191955]

Mr. Straw: The Government have accepted Lord Carter's report 'Securing the Future: proposals for an efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales', including the proposal that we should pursue the construction of up to three large 'Titan' prisons. Lord Carter consulted widely and his findings were set out in his report. We are now developing the more detailed case for Titans within our overall prison estate strategy and have already undertaken to use this as the basis for a public consultation exercise.

Public Bodies: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been given to public authorities on the use of bailiffs to collect civil debts owed to public authorities by individuals. [192191]

Maria Eagle: In April 2002 the leaflet 'Effective Enforcement—National Standards for Enforcement Agents' was produced with the assistance of and endorsed by industry and Government, including local authorities. The guidance is not legally binding; rather it sets out what the Department, those in the industry and some major users including creditor groups regard as a benchmark for professional standards within enforcement.

Public General Acts: Administration of Justice

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Acts of Parliament which relate either wholly or partly to criminal justice and which have arisen from legislative proposals brought forward by his Department or its predecessors have been passed since May 1997; and which new criminal offences have been created by such legislation in the last five years. [187425]

Mr. Straw: Table 1 lists Acts of Parliament that are currently wholly the responsibility of my Department or where my Department has a significant share. Table 2 lists such criminal offences created by these Acts in the last five years. I apologise to the right hon. Member for the delay in replying, but preparation of the answer has involved considerable work.

Table 1

Access to Justice 1999
Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007
Courts Act 2003
Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Criminal Cases Review (Insanity) Act 1999
Criminal Defence Service Act 2001
Criminal Defence Service Act 2006
Criminal Justice Act 2003
Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
Fraud Act 2006
Legal Services Act 2007
Magistrates' Courts Procedures Act 1998
Offender Management Act 2007
Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000
Serious Crime Act 2007
Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000
Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Part 1 only)
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007
Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999

Table 2

Act of Parliament	*Offence(s) created*
Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007	Manslaughter by an organisation caused by gross failure of the organisation's management or organisation.
Courts Act 2003	Assaulting or obstructing court security officers.
Criminal Justice Act 2003	Reporting facts relating to appeals or re-trials in contravention of reporting restrictions or publishing facts which might prejudice a retrial in contravention of a court order.
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004	Breaching a non-molestation order, and causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult.
Fraud Act 2006	See Annex A.
Legal Services Act 2007	Carrying on a reserved legal activity if not entitled, or through a person not entitled; and pretending to be entitled to carry out a reserved legal activity.
Serious Crime Act 2007	Assisting and encouraging crime.
Sexual Offences Act 2003	See Annex B, which covers the offences in Part 1 of the Act.
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007	Unauthorised use or disclosure of debtor information.

Annex A

Fraud (s.1)
Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds (s.6)
Making or supplying articles for use in frauds (s.7)
Participating in fraudulent business carried on by a sole trader etc.(s.9)
Obtaining services dishonestly (s.11)

Annex B

Causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent (s.4)
Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (s.10)
Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child (s.11)
Causing a child to watch a sexual act (s.12)
Child sex offences committed by children or young persons (s.13)
Arranging or facilitating commission of a child sex offence (s.14)
Meeting a child following sexual grooming etc (s.15)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (s.17)
Abuse of a position of trust: sexual activity in the presence of a child (s.18)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing a child to watch a sexual act (s.19)
Inciting a child family member to engage in sexual activity (s.26)
Causing or inciting a person with a mental disorder impeding choice, to engage in sexual activity (s.31)
Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a person with a mental disorder impeding choice, (s.32)
Causing or inciting a person with a mental disorder impeding choice, to watch a sexual act (s.33)
Inducement, threat or deception to procure sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder (s.34)

Causing a person with a mental disorder to engage in sexual activity by inducement, threat or deception (s.35)

Engaging in sexual activity in the presence, procured by inducement, threat or deception of a person with a mental disorder (s.36)

Causing a person with a mental disorder to watch a sexual act, by inducement, threat or deception (s.37)

Care workers: causing or inciting sexual activity (s.39)

Care workers: sexual activity in the presence of a person with a mental disorder (s.40)

Care workers: causing a person with a mental disorder to watch a sexual act (s.41)

Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation (s.57)

Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation (s.58)

Trafficking out of the UK for sexual exploitation (s.59)

Sexual penetration of a corpse (s.70)

Sexual activity in a public lavatory (s.71)

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many funding agreements for academy schools were signed in each month since June 2005. [188860]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has approved 68 academies funding agreements since June 2005. The names of the academies, the phase they have reached and the date that the funding agreement was signed are shown in the following table.

Academy name	*Local authority*	*Phase name*	*Date FA signed*
North Liverpool Academy	Liverpool	Open	June 2005
Oasis Academy Enfield	Enfield	Open	June 2005
The Bridge Academy	Hackney	Open	June 2005
Bradford Academy	Bradford	Open	August 2005
Macmillan Academy	Middlesbrough	Open	August 2005
Folkestone Academy	Kent	Open	September 2005
Barnsley Academy	Barnsley	Open	October 2005
The St. Matthew Academy	Lewisham	Open	November 2005
Walthamstow Academy	Waltham Forest	Open	January 2006
Sheffield Park	Sheffield	Open	February 2006
Langley Academy	Slough	Implementation	February 2006
Sheffield Springs	Sheffield	Open	April 2006
Saint Mary Magdalene Academy	Islington	Open	April 2006
The Corby Business Academy	Northamptonshire	Implementation	May 2006
Merchants' Academy Withywood	Bristol	Implementation	July 2006
The Harris Bermondsey Academy	Southwark	Open	July 2006
St. Mark's CofE	Merton	Open	July 2006
Leigh Technology Academy	Kent	Open	July 2006
Harris Academy Merton	Merton	Open	July 20
Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	Southwark	Open	July 2006
Stockport Academy	Stockport	Open	August 2006
Excelsior Academy	Newcastle	Implementation	August 2006
Landau Forte College	Derby	Open	August 2006
Burlington Danes Academy	Hammersmith and Fulham	Open	August 2006
Gateway Academy	Thurrock	Open	August 2006
Oasis Academy Wintringham	North East Lincs	Open	December 2006
Oasis Academy Immingham	North East Lincs	Open	December 2006
Ashcroft Technology Academy	Wandsworth	Open	December 2006
The Belvedere Academy	Liverpool	Open	February 2007
William Hulme's Grammar School	Manchester	Open	February 2007
Madeley Academy	Telford and Wrekin	Open	March 2007
The Chelsea Science Academy	Kensington and Chelsea	Implementation	March 2007
King Solomon Academy	Westminster	Open	May 2007
Barnfield South Academy	Luton	Open	May 2007
Barnfield West Academy	Luton	Open	May 2007
Spires Academy	Kent	Open	May 2007
Grace Academy	Coventry	Implementation	June 2007
Eastbourne Church of England Academy	Darlington	Open	June 2007
John Cabot Academy	South Gloucestershire	Open	June 2007
Q3 Academy	Sandwell	Implementation	June 2007
St. Anne's Academy	Rochdale	Open	June 2007
Havelock Academy	North East Lincs	Open	July 2007
St. Michael and All Angels CofE	Southwark	Open	July 2007

Academy name	*Local authority*	*Phase name*	*Date FA signed*
Marsh Academy	Kent	Open	July 2007
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	Implementation	July 2007
North Oxfordshire Academy	Oxfordshire	Open	July 2007
Evelyn Grace Academy	Lambeth	Implementation	July 2007
Swindon Academy	Swindon	Open	July 2007
George Salter Collegiate Academy	Sandwell	Open	August 2007
Shireland Collegiate Academy	Sandwell	Open	August 2007
Pennywell/Quarry View Academy	Sunderland	Implementation	August 2007
Castle View Enterprise Academy	Sunderland	Implementation	Aug 07
Red House Academy	Sunderland	Implementation	August 2007
Brooke Weston Academy	Northamptonshire	Implementation	August 2007
The Bristol Brunel Academy	Bristol	Open	August 2007
Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace	Croydon	Open	August 2007
Bacon's, A Church of England Sponsored Academy	Southwark	Open	August 2007
New Line Learning Academy, South Maidstone Federation	Kent	Open	August 2007
Cornwallis (name TBC) South Maidstone Federation	Kent	Open	August 2007
Walworth Academy	Southwark	Open	August 2007
Nottingham Bulwell Academy	Nottingham	Implementation	August 2007
The Globe Academy	Southwark	Implementation	November 2007
New Charter Academy	Tameside	Implementation	November 2007
Nottingham University Samworth Academy	Nottingham	Implementation	November 2007
The Samworth Church Academy	Nottinghamshire	Implementation	November 2007
Oasis Academy Hengrove	Bristol	Implementation	November 2007
Bede Academy	Northumberland	Implementation	December 2007
The RSA Academy, Tipton	Sandwell	Implementation	January 2008

Academies: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding each academy school has received from Partnerships for Schools since January 2006. [192625]

Jim Knight: Academies receive capital funding determined by Partnerships for Schools in accordance with the agreed phasing of milestone payments during the construction of the school, and following the award of the contract. To date, no contracts have been awarded by academies to be delivered under the Partnerships for Schools national framework. Some payments, from the total funding allocation for the project, have already been made to local authorities to support the development of the academy project. These and the award of PFI Credits for a Building Schools for the Future academy which opened in September 2007 are shown in the following tables.

Local authority	*Academy/ies*	*Capital grant payments made (£000)*
Brent	Stadium Academy	300
Brighton and Hove	New Academy	233
Bristol	Colston's Girls Academy	252
Darlington	Eastbourne Academy	262
Essex	Chalvedon/Barstable Academies	400
Hackney	Hackney Skinners Academy	400
Herefordshire	Hereford Academy	250
Kent	Cornwallis/New Line Learning Academies	1,500
Lancashire	Accrington Moorhead Academy	160
Lincolnshire	The Priory LSST, Priory Witham and Priory City of Lincoln Academies	400
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Academy	300
Norfolk	The Open Academy	250
North East Lincolnshire	Havelock Academy	312
Oxfordshire	The Oxford Academy	300
Rochdale	St. Anne's Academy	265
Southwark	Walworth Academy	250
Total		5,834

Local authority	*Academy*	*PFI credits allocations made (£000)*
Bristol	Brunel Academy	35,272

In addition; up to the end of February 2008; the Department has invested some £1.4 billion in traditionally procured academies.

Apprentices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many apprenticeship placements are planned in each year to 2010, broken down by parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement. [183172]

Jim Knight: The following table shows projected numbers of people starting apprenticeships from 2007-08 through to the end of the current comprehensive spending review period in 2010-11, broken down by age.

Proposed apprenticeship starts	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
16 to 18	106,000	108,000	116,000	122,000
19 to 24	68,000	77,000	85,000	75,000
25+	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total starts	183,000	195,000	211,000	207,000

Figures broken down by parliamentary constituency are not available.

Over the past decade we have more than doubled the number of young people and adults starting apprenticeships. Over the period to 2020 we project that apprenticeship starts will increase to over 250,000 per year. As we grow the programme, taking up an apprenticeship may become attractive to even more young people. We will maintain our commitment to meeting the demand from suitably qualified young people, so that if more come forward we will work with employers to expand further. On this basis, we anticipate that around one in five of all young people will be undertaking an apprenticeship within the next decade.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many (a) 16 and (b) 17 year olds in apprenticeships had A*-C GCSEs in mathematics, English, a science and a modern language in each year for which data are available; [192042]

(2) how many *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 year olds in apprenticeships had A*-C GCSEs in mathematics, English and a science in each year for which data are available; [192043]

(3) how many *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 year olds in apprenticeships had an A*-C GCSE in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) English and mathematics in each year for which data are available. [192044]

Jim Knight: A combined response to PQs 192042, 192043 and 192044 is presented here due to the similarity of the questions and data availability. The following figures are from matched administrative data which link together participation and attainment data at an individual level from several administrative data sources. The table shows participation in apprenticeships by achievement of GGSE (or equivalent) in English and mathematics at grades A* to C. We do not have data for modern languages or science. Figures relate to England only.

				GCSE			*Percentage GCSE*		
Cohort	*Academic age*	*Main study aim*	*Total participating*	*English A*-C*	*Maths A*-C*	*English and Maths A*-C*	*English A*-C*	*Maths A*-C*	*English and Maths A*-C*
19 in 2007	16	Apprenticeship	28,862	8,240	5,934	4,027	28.5	20.6	14.0
	16	Advanced Apprenticeship	4,468	1,921	1,977	1,351	43.0	44.2	30.2
	17	Apprenticeship	40,651	12,510	9,242	6,414	30.8	22.7	15.8
	17	Advanced Apprenticeship	9,089	4,478	4,250	3,126	49.3	46.8	34.4
19 in 2008	16	Apprenticeship	28,699	8,583	6,787	4,551	29.9	23.6	15.9
	16	Advanced Apprenticeship	2,898	1,632	1,692	1,289	56,3	58.4	44.5
	17	Apprenticeship	41,407	13,192	10,562	7,162	31.9	25.5	17.3
	17	Advanced Apprenticeship	7,003	4,224	4,088	3,251	60.3	58.4	46.4

Note:

The participation data have coverage limitations in the dataset; and information is not available for certain groups of learners, such as those in independent schools and higher education institutes (although we do have their attainment data). They are not used for published participation statistics, but can be used for indicative purposes (albeit with caveats applied on coverage). Figures for the '19 in 2008 cohort' refer to those learners who turn 19 in 2007/08. This is the latest cohort of learners in the matched dataset for whom we have data for 16 and 17-year-olds (academic ages, from 2005/06 and 2006/07, respectively). Participation in the matched administrative dataset is limited to the cohorts shown above.

Assessments: Administration

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many completed examination papers at *(a)* Key Stage 3, *(b)* GCSE and *(c)* A-level were lost in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [190177]

Jim Knight: For Key Stage 3 Papers, the figures requested are as follows:

Exam series		*Key Stage 3*	
	Papers lost	*Percentage of all papers*	*Total number of papers*
2003	3,762	0.078	4,832,076
2004	5,539	0.115	3,692,666
2005	792	0.017	4,658,883
2006	2,133	0.044	4,847,727
2007	1,521	0.032	4,753,125

For GGSE and A-level, until 2004 completed examination papers were sent by schools and colleges for marking using the postal system. No exact figures are available, but the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) estimate that an average of 6,000 papers a year were lost. In 2004, through the exams modernisation programme, a courier service was introduced across England to collect completed papers from schools and colleges. The number of papers lost through this service each year is as follows. There are arrangements in place to ensure that candidates whose papers are lost are not disadvantaged.

Exam series	*General Qualifications (GQs)*		
	Papers lost	*Percentage of all papers*	*Total number of papers*
2003	[1]6,000	n/a	n/a
2004[2]	9	n/a	n/a
2005	1,871	0.009	20,788,888
2006	1,343	0.006	22,383,333
2007	2,202	0.01	22,020,000

[1] On average. [2] November pilot for GQs.

Assessments: Maladministration

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of maladministration in respect of Key Stage *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 tests were investigated by the National Assessment Agency in each year since 2000-01; and if he will make a statement. [192571]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is statutorily obliged to investigate any matter brought to its attention relating to the accuracy or correctness of the results of any pupil in respect of the key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests. Such matters are referred to as allegations of maladministration. The term 'maladministration' refers to any act, accidental or intentional, that could jeopardise the integrity, security of confidentiality of the tests. For example, the opening of test papers at the wrong time by accident would lead to an investigation.

Investigations are carried out by the National Assessment Agency (NAA), part of the QCA. The NAA's remit in investigating cases of alleged maladministration is to determine whether there is doubt over the correctness or accuracy of pupil results. The sanction applied where a case of maladministration is proven is the annulment or change of results for individual pupils or for the whole school.

Numbers of maladministration cases investigated by the NAA in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 for key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests are provided in the following table. As maladministration data were not collected until 2001, information for 2000-01 is not provided.

	Key stage 2	*Key stage 3*
2000-01	No data available	
2001-02	152	91
2002-03	282	176
2003-04	229	164
2004-05	325	240
2005-06	339	256
2006-07	321	251
2007-08	280	246

[1] The total cohort is approximately 600,000 pupils at the end of each key stage who take the tests each year.

The information contained in the table was provided by the QCA.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what schools are under construction through the Building Schools for the Future programme in each local authority area. [192642]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the schools which have started construction under the Building Schools for the Future programme in each local authority area:

School	*Local authority*	*Parliamentary constituency*
Salt	Bradford	Shipley
Tong	Bradford	Bradford South
Buttershaw	Bradford	Bradford South
Whitefield	Bristol	Bristol East
Brislington	Bristol	Bristol East
Hartcliffe	Bristol	Bristol South
Durham Johnston	Durham	Durham
Ifield SEN	Kent	Gravesham
St. Edmund Canterbury	Knowsley	Knowsley South

School	*Local authority*	*Parliamentary constituency*
Halewood	Knowsley	Knowsley South
Prescott	Knowsley	Knowsley South
Elm Court SEN	Lambeth	Dulwich and West Norwood
Park Campus PRU	Lambeth	Streatham
Shuttleworth	Lancashire	Burnley
Burnley Sixth Form	Lancashire	Burnley
Pendle Vale	Lancashire	Pendle
Pendle Vale SEN	Lancashire	Pendle
Sir John Thursby	Lancashire	Burnley
Ridgewood Community High SEN	Lancashire	Burnley
Allerton High	Leeds	Leeds North East
Cockburn	Leeds	Leeds Central
Pudsey Grangefield	Leeds	Pudsey
Rodillian	Leeds	Morley and Rothwell
Temple Moor High	Leeds	Leeds East
Allerton Grange	Leeds	Leeds North East
Beaumont Leys	Leicester	Leicester West
Fullhurst	Leicester	Leicester West
Judgemeadow	Leicester	Leicester East
Soar Valley	Leicester	Leicester East
Sedgehill	Lewisham	Lewisham West
Catford	Lewisham	Lewisham East
Melland SEN	Manchester	Manchester Gorton
Cedar Mount	Manchester	Manchester Gorton
Newall Green	Manchester	Wythenshawe and Sale East
St. Pauls	Manchester	Wythenshawe and Sale East
Piper Hill SEN	Manchester	Wythenshawe and Sale East
Our Lady's	Manchester	Manchester Blackley
St. Matthew's	Manchester	Manchester Blackley
Meade Hill SEN	Manchester	Manchester Blackley
Northridge High	Manchester	Manchester Blackley
Walbottle	Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne North
Kenton	Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne North
Thomas Bewick SEN	Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne North
Benfield	Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne and Wallsend
Newfield	Sheffield	Sheffield Heeley
Silverdale	Sheffield	Sheffield Hallam
Talbot SEN	Sheffield	Sheffield Heeley
Yewlands	Sheffield	Sheffield Brightside
Lanchester SEN	Solihull	Meriden
Park Hall	Solihull	Meriden
The Archbishop Grimshaw	Solihull	Meriden
Smith's Wood	Solihull	Meriden
Frederick Bremer	Waltham Forest	Walthamstow
Kelmscott	Waltham Forest	Walthamstow

Children: Asylum

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sources of funding are available for the provision of English language and life skills to unaccompanied minors who are seeking asylum *(a)* up to the age of 16 years and *(b)* after they are 18-years-old; and if he will make a statement. [190189]

Jim Knight: All unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) of compulsory school age receive the same educational entitlement as citizen children. All unaccompanied minors are cared for by the local authorities and therefore have the same entitlement as all looked-after children. Unaccompanied asylum seekers aged 16-18 are eligible for courses funded by the Learning and Skills Council. Asylum seekers who have not received a decision on their application after six months and are aged 19 and over are eligible for English for speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). This also applies to asylum seekers who are unable to leave the country for reasons beyond their control.

My Department provides funding to local authorities to support provision for those for whom English is an additional language (EAL) and pupils from minority ethnic groups at risk of underachieving through:

a substantial provision for EAL through the ring fenced Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG), which has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £179 million in 2007-08 and will rise to £208 million by 2010-11, a 9 per cent. increase on the 2004-05 level;

an element within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for primary schools which was some £256 million in 2004-05, rising to £299 million in 2007-08, with a further rise to over £330 million in 2010-11, an 11 per cent. real terms increase on the 2004-05 level;

an Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) which has been introduced to reflect changes in local authorities' pupil numbers which occur after the three year indicative allocations of DSG have been announced.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on his Department's proposals to replace Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution with broader guidance aimed at safeguarding children from sexual exploitation, including those who have been groomed over the internet; and when he expects to publish this new guidance. [191440]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have been discussing with key organisations with expertise in this area how the guidance on Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution can be updated and expanded to help local agencies safeguard children from sexual exploitation more generally. We have commissioned ease study research examining how local areas currently tackle this issue, which will also help to ensure the guidance is informed by effective current practice. We plan to publish a draft for consultation before the summer.

Class Sizes: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average pupil:teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years; [192124]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of teaching assistants who left posts in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years. [192125]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Eastbourne constituency and England in each January, 2003 to 2007.

Information on the number of teaching assistants who left their posts each year is not collected centrally. Figures from the School Census shows that there were 230 teaching assistants in service in Eastbourne constituency in January 2003 and there were 250 in January 2007.

The new School Workforce Census, which is expected to be in place in 2010, will provide more detailed information on the inflow and outflow of teaching assistants.

Pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, years: January 2003 to 2007—coverage: Eastbourne constituency and England

	Eastbourne constituency		*England*	
January	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
2003	22.0	16.9	22.6	17.0
2004	22.6	17.5	227	17.0
2005	22.6	17.8	22.5	16.7
2006	23.2	17.8	22.0	16.6
2007	23.6	18.0	21.8	16.5

Source:
School Census

Class Sizes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was in City of York local education authority schools for *(a)* infant, *(b)* junior and *(c)* secondary pupils in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [192252]

Jim Knight: The information for key stage 1, key stage 2 and secondary school class sizes is given in the following table:

Average class size: York local authority, 1997 and 2007 (January each year)

	1997	*2007*
Key stage1[1]	26.3	25.1
Key stage 2[1]	28.9	27.2
Secondary[1]	21.6	20.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Source:
School Census

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180564]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what private finance initiative projects were approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each. [190834]

Jim Knight: The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project is recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

If the hon. Member requires any further information, he should contact Phil Batchelor at 020 7270 4496 or phil.batchelor@hm-treasury.x.gsi,gov.uk.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on examination fees by schools in each year since 2002. [191293]

Jim Knight: The information in the following table covers the costs incurred by all local authority maintained primary, secondary and special schools, for test administration and examination entry fees and any accreditation costs related to pupils taking GCSEs, GNVQs, AS and A2 qualifications. There are no fees for national curriculum tests for maintained schools.

Academic year	*Amount (£ million)*
2002-03	156
2003-04	174
2004-05	198
2005-06	220
2006-07	240

Source:
http://www.dfes/gov.uk/localauthorities/section52 (Budget Data Archive-Summary Level)

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) carried out a review of the fees for GCSEs and A levels in 2006. The QCA and its fellow regulators are currently preparing a report on the fees for the revised A levels that are to be introduced in schools and colleges in September 2008. The report will be published in the spring of 2008. The QCA is also setting in hand a study of the efficiency of the examinations system.

Education: Expenditure

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what comparisons he routinely makes between a council's education gross expenditure and the same council's original budget unpublished/computerised in the CedAr system for education and regeneration; and if he will make a statement; [176857]

(2) what allowances are routinely made for a council that records its additional gross expenditure on schools but not its additional gross income; and if he will make a statement. [176858]

Jim Knight: The Department does not make such comparisons, or allowances.

Education: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* infant, *(b)* junior, *(c)* primary, *(d)* secondary and *(e)* special schools have been awarded ratings of (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate following an inspection by Ofsted in each London borough in each of the last five years. [185982]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Foundation Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received foundation status in each year for which figures are available. [191201]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the number of proposals by schools, to change category to foundation, that the Department has been informed have been published since 2001, and how many have been approved.

	Published	*Approved*
2001	16	15
2002	12	11
2003	6	6
2004	4	3
2005	11	11
2006	40	40
2007	62	62
2008	2	2

In addition to the aforementioned, a further 37 schools have published proposals to change category to foundation (since November 2007), but the proposals have not yet been decided.

Where a school governing body wishes to change category to foundation, they must follow a statutory process. The current process involves five stages: consultation (with prescribed parties); publication (of a statutory notice in a local newspaper, at the entrance to the school and in a local conspicuous place); representations (allowing four weeks for comments and objections to be submitted; decision (normally by the governing body); and implementation (if proposals are approved). The Secretary of State has no role in the process.

Further Education: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils aged 16 to 18 years have been educated in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* sixth-form colleges in the East of England in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [169963]

Jim Knight: Figures for learners aged 16 to 18 participating in further education (FE) programmes in further education colleges and sixth-form colleges can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR). The FE ILR was collated for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are given from that time.

16 to 18 learner numbers in further education colleges and sixth-form colleges in the East of England by local authority

Thousand

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Bedfordshire					
General FE and tertiary college	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.7
Sixth-form college	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Luton					
General FE and tertiary college	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0

16 to 18 learner numbers in further education colleges and sixth-form colleges in the East of England by local authority

					Thousand
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Sixth-form college	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8
Cambridgeshire					
General FE and tertiary college	4.9	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.5
Sixth-form college	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.6
Peterborough					
General FE and tertiary college	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1
Sixth-form college	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Essex					
General FE and tertiary college	11.1	10.8	11.4	12.6	12.9
Sixth-form college	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.5
Southend on Sea					
General FE and tertiary college	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
Sixth-form college	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Thurrock					
General FE and tertiary college	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Sixth-form college	0.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6
Hertfordshire					
General FE and tertiary college	8.4	8.4	8.9	9.1	9.5
Sixth-form college	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Norfolk					
General FE and tertiary college	7.0	6.9	7.4	7.5	7.6
Sixth-form college	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Suffolk					
General FE and tertiary college	5.0	5.3	5.8	6.1	6.1
Sixth-form college	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools there are in each English local authority area in which fewer than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils attained five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007; and how many schools in each such authority entered pupils for GCSEs in 2007. [192570]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils in schools achieving 5 A*-C GGSEs including English and mathematics can be found in the Achievement and Attainment Tables in the House of Commons Library.

Information on exam entries by schools can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students resat GCSE examinations in Eastbourne constituency in each year since 1997. [192123]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gifted Children: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in the gifted and talented programme did not gain level five or above at key stage 3 tests in 2007. [191300]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number and proportion of students in maintained schools identified as gifted and talented who did not achieve level 5 or above in key stage 3 tests in English, mathematics and science in 2007. It also gives comparable figures for those pupils who were not identified as gifted and talented.

Secondary schools are asked to identify all pupils meeting the published eligibility criteria for the top 5 per cent. of pupils nationally and are free to identify other pupils who they judge to be gifted and talented relative to their year group in their school. Decisions are based on ability rather than attainment and will include pupils with practical talents in sports, arts and other fields.

Key stage 3 2007	*Gifted and talented*		*Not identified as G&T*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
English	2.511	3.1	116,635	23.7
Mathematics	2,176	2.7	114,224	23.2
Science	2,968	3.7	129,782	26.4

Gifted Children: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils classified as gifted and talented received a fixed period exclusion in each of the last three years. [191301]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gifted Children: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people resident in Wirral, West constituency belong to the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth. [192444]

Jim Knight: The National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth was replaced by the Learner Academy for gifted and talented pupils in September 2007.

The Department does not hold information specifically about the number of pupils who are registered with the Learner Academy for gifted and talented pupils resident in any given area. However, the Department does collect information about pupils who are identified by their school as being within the school's gifted and talented population. Some of these pupils are also registered with the Learner Academy for gifted and talented pupils. Information about the number of young people resident in Wirral, West identified as being within their schools gifted and talented population is provided in the table.

Pupils aged 5 to 15 resident in Wirral, West, 2007

	Resident pupils
Number of resident pupils	8,446
Number of resident pupils identified as gifted and talented[1]	1,123
% of resident pupils identified as gifted and talented[1]	13.3

[1] all pupils who: (i) have been registered as members of the student academy of the former National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) on the basis of the NAGTY eligibility criteria at: http://ygt.dcsf.gov.uk/FileLinks/191_NAGTYeligibility_criteria.pdf; or

(ii) have not been registered as members of the former NAGTY student academy but nevertheless are judged by the school to meet the NAGTY eligibility criteria; and all pupils that, while they may not meet the NAGTY eligibility criteria, have been identified by the school as gifted and talented because their ability is developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group within that school, or because they have the potential to develop such ability.

Source:

School Census 2007

Head Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those teachers who have obtained a National Professional Qualification for Headship have been appointed as *(a)* head teachers and *(b)* deputy head teachers of (i) primary schools, (ii) secondary schools and (iii) special schools, broken down by (A) ethnicity, (B) sex and (C) region. [169794]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available centrally.

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans are there to review strategies for making children aware of the risks associated with drinking alcohol; [193031]

(2) what provision there is in the curriculum for educating children on the dangers of alcoholism. [193032]

Kevin Brennan: The Department issued its 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' to all mainlined schools in February 2004. This makes clear our intention for pupils to be educated about alcohol and its effects in primary school—before drinking patterns become established— and for this to be revisited in secondary school as pupils' understanding and experience increases.

Alcohol education should be delivered (along with other drug education) through well planned personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). Schools are expected to use the non-statutory frameworks of PSHE and citizenship at key stages 1 and 2, PSHE at key stages 3 and 4, the statutory citizenship programme of study at key stages 3 and 4 and the statutory requirements within the national curriculum science order for all phases for developing drug education.

We announced in the Children's Plan that we would this year review the delivery of drug and alcohol education in schools in the light of the comprehensive and long-running Blueprint study, which is expected to conclude shortly.

In addition to that, we also announced in the Children's Plan that we would publish an action plan on young people and alcohol, which will look at whether there are other ways—including action on alcohol education, low-price sales of alcohol and alcohol advertising—in which we could seek to influence young people's consumption of alcohol. We expect to publish the action plan shortly.

The action plan will build on existing measures to communicate clearer information to young people and parents about the harms associated with alcohol, which were set out in the Government document 'Safe, Sensible, Social,' which updated the national alcohol harm reduction strategy.

Mathematics: GCE A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in maintained schools were entered for mathematics A-level or AS-level in each year from 1997; and if he will make a statement. [190346]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

Pupils in mainstream maintained schools entered for GCE A levels

	Number of pupils entered into mathematics	Percentage of pupils entered into mathematics
1997	28,184	25.7
1998	28,731	25.0
1999	29,053	24.8
2000	28,308	24.2
2001	28,680	23.9
2002	22,874	19.0
2003	23,063	18.4
2004	23,675	18.4
2005	24,022	17.9
2006	25,829	18.6
2007	27,941	19.9

Pupils in mainstream maintained schools entered for GGE AS levels

	Number of pupils entered into mathematics	Percentage of pupils entered into mathematics
2001	31,841	23.5
2002	30,387	19.3
2003	29,519	17.9
2004	27,424	16.3
2005	30,147	17.2
2006	32,136	17.9
2007	36,380	19.7

These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in mainstream maintained schools.

AS levels were first introduced in 2000/01.

Operating Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated for administrative costs of running his Department for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by main budget heading. [172551]

Kevin Brennan: The net administrative budget for the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2007-08 is £195.8 million and in 2008-09 will be £191.2 million. A high level breakdown of administration cost outturn is published in the Department's Annual Report.

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school places there *(a)* were in 2007-08 and *(b)* have been in Bournemouth in each of the last 10 years. [193030]

Jim Knight: The available information is provided in the table. Data for 1997 are not available as Bournemouth was part of Dorset local authority.

Information on the number school places is not collected centrally. Therefore information on the number of pupils on roll in primary schools has been provided.

	Number (headcount) of primary school pupils in Bournemouth LA
1998	11,546
1999	11,563
2000	11,554
2001	11,449
2002	11,226
2003	11,150
2004	10,980
2005	10,755
2006	10,492
2007	10,360

Source:
School Census

Primary Education: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools were in special measures at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many have been given notice to improve in the last 12 months. [192632]

Jim Knight: The most recent figures published by Ofsted showed that 174 (1.0 per cent.) primary schools were in special measures on 31 December 2007.

Between January and December 2007 a total of 154 primary schools (0.9 per cent.) were judged to require significant improvement and were given a notice to improve.

Primary Education: Transport

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of primary school children who travel *(a)* to and *(b)* from school by (i) car, (ii) public transport, (iii) walking, (iv) cycling and (v) school-organised bus transport. [193029]

Jim Knight: Home to school mode of travel data were collected at pupil level for the first time in the 2007 schools census, but are only compulsory for schools with an approved School Travel Plan in place. According to the most recent available figures; 14,063 schools in England have approved travel plans. Mode of travel data do not distinguish between "home to school" and "school to home" journeys. The following table shows the percentage and mode of travel for primary pupils in England, derived from the 2007 schools census.

Mode of travel	Percentage of primary pupils
Car (includes car share, van and taxi)	40.5
Public transport (including school organised bus transport)	3.5
Walking	54.9
Cycling	1.1

Primary Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers, *(b)* non-teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in York primary schools (i) in total and (ii) per pupil in (A) 1996-97 and (B) the latest year for which figures are available. [192253]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent regular teachers, teaching assistants, non-teaching assistants and other support staff in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in York local authority and England in January 1997 and 2007. The pupil:staff ratio for each of these groups is also provided.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers, teaching assistants, non-teaching assistants, other support staff pupil:teacher ratio (PTR) and pupil:staff ratios (PSR) in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools—coverage: York local authority and England

Years: January 1997 and 2007

	1997				2007			
	York		England		York		England	
	Teacher	PSR/PTR	Teacher	PSR/PTR	Teacher	PSR/PTR	PSR/P Teacher	PSR/PTR
Regular teachers[1,2]	630	24.3	191,670	23.4	650	21.7	197,100	21.8
Teaching assistants[3]	90	156.7	41,870	102.7	330	38.7	105,770	37.8
Teaching assistants	60	222.4	24,300	177.0	270	47.3	77,570	51.6
Non-teaching assistants[4]	30	531.9	17,570	259.1	60	217.3	28,210	154.1
Other support staff[3,5]	70	213.2	33,870	127.0	90	134.7	57,370	697

[1] Source: Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618 g except PTR/PSR which is derived from School Census.

[2] Excludes occasionals.

[3] Source: School Census.

[4] Includes special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

[5] Excludes teaching assistants.

Note:

Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Private Education: GCE AS-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in independent schools were entered for AS-level in each year from 1997; and if he will make a statement. [190347]

Jim Knight: The numbers of pupils in independent schools who were entered for AS level are as follows:

Pupils in independent schools entered for AS levels

	Number
2000/01	26,665
2001/02	35,847
2002/03	35,322
2003/04	33,489
2004/05	32,633
2005/06	32,942
2006/07	33,130

These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).

The figures relate to pupils who either took or cashed in AS levels during each academic year. Consequently, comparison with all 16 to 18-year-olds is not appropriate and so percentages cannot be provided.

AS levels were first introduced in 2000/01.

Religious Freedom

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he plans to make to paragraphs 69 and 70 of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's report of her mission to the UK (A/HRC/7/10/Add.3). [190522]

Jim Knight: The Government welcome the publication of the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on religion or belief. We have noted the contents of the report and welcome the positive statements about freedom of religion or belief in the UK.

In respect of paragraph 69, the Government remain committed to the promotion and protection of human rights including respect for, and acceptance of, pluralism and diversity. The non-statutory framework for religious education places inclusion, tolerance, diversity and interfaith dialogue at the heart of children's learning. Each locally agreed syllabus must take into account not only Christianity but the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in the country. The membership of a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, as set out in law, should comprise representatives of Christian denominations and other religions which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area, as well as representatives of teaching unions and of the local authority.

In relation to paragraph 70 of the report, every parent has the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of religious education and/or collective worship. Since September 2007, sixth form pupils have had the right to opt out of collective worship without parental consent. We believe it is reasonable to limit this right to collective worship and to those above compulsory school age.

Schools

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 406W, on schools, how many non-maintained schools have been opened in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [190698]

Jim Knight: A table showing the numbers of non-maintained schools opened since 1997, broken down by local authority, has been placed in the House Library. The table separates the main types of establishment: (A) academies and city technology colleges; (B) independent schools; (C) independent special schools; and, (D) non-maintained special schools.

It should be noted that maintained special schools were not included in the answer of 8 October 2007.

Schools: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils and students were taken to hospital due to accidents within schools in Colchester constituency in each of the last five years. [180360]

Jim Knight: Figures from the Health and Safety Executive covering reportable injuries to non-employees, including pupils and students, in schools, in the Colchester borough council area are set out in the following table. This area comprises Colchester and North Essex constituencies.

	Colchester borough council area: schools
2002-03	14
2003-04	6
2004-05	10
2005-06	14
2006-07	12

Under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995), an accident that happens to pupils or visitors in a school must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive if the person involved is killed or is taken to hospital from the site of the accident and the accident arises out of or in connection with work.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have withdrawn from participation in the National Test pilot scheme. [192569]

Jim Knight: Single Level Tests are being trialled as one element of the Making Good Progress pilot. 476 schools were involved when the pilot began in September 2007. Since then, 21 schools have withdrawn their participation from the Making Good Progress pilot, mostly due to changes of personnel. 411 pilot schools entered pupils for the first round of Single Level Tests in December 2007.

Schools: Facilities

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recommendations there are under the Building Schools for the Future programme on changing facilities, with particular reference to the number of year groups utilising the facilities at any one time. [191873]

Jim Knight: The BSF programme guidance does not make specific recommendations for this provision. Its aim is to raise the standard of educational attainment through the development of school buildings fit for 21st Century teaching and learning. The BSF programme, which is largely administered by local authorities, does however, use a number of publications to advise schools and building professionals on the details of the building brief. In the case of changing facilities those documents would be BB98 and the School Premises Regulations (SPRs).

BB98 states

> 'The total area of total and personal care facilities.... must include:
>
> ....changing rooms with showers, near to indoor and outdoor sports provision......
>
> The location and design of toilet and changing room facilities should balance the demands for both privacy and adequate supervision.
>
> Normally it is sufficient to provide changing facilities for half a year group with equal and separate facilities for boys and girls in co-educational schools and further changing rooms for the sixth form. Showers should generally be in the form of separate cubicles, with approximately one for every six or seven pupils changing. In addition, at least one accessible changing area (with a sanitary fitting, wash basin and shower) should be provided in each changing area.'

BB98 has drawn some of its information from a Sport England guidance note on the design of sports halls, although this does not make reference specifically to schools.

The School Premises Regulations state that

> '.....Changing accommodation including showers shall be provided for pupils who have attained the age of 11 years and who are in receipt of physical education and that accommodation shall be readily accessible from the school grounds and from any accommodation provided for physical education within the school buildings'.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the Partnerships for Schools programme determines allocations of capital funding to academy schools; and how the Building Schools for the Future programme determines such allocations to local authorities for new schools. [192626]

Jim Knight: Funding for academies and new schools within BSF is determined by Partnerships for Schools in accordance with the 'Funding Guidance for BSF Projects, including Academies' document which is available from the Partnerships for Schools website. The website address is:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk.

Schools: Innovation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted powers to innovate in each year since 2002. [192394]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has made 29 Power to Innovate orders in total that have directly benefited around 200 schools and colleges. The following table sets out the number of Power to Innovate formal applications received in each academic year since 2002; the number of orders made; and the number of schools to which those orders applied. The Department has received over 1,700 formal inquiries since it was introduced, many of which could be implemented within existing legislation, or did not meet the criteria for the PtI.

Annual report (academic year)	*Number of formal applications*	*Number withdrawn*	*Number of orders made*	*Number of schools covered*
2002-03	4	0	3	3
2003-04	24	18	5	100
2004-05	5	0	5	73
2005-06	7	1	5	9
2006-07	7	1	6	14
2007-end February 2008	13	4	5	5
Total	60	24	29	204

Schools: Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in England have school travel plans; [191698]

(2) how many schools in England have received public funding to help develop or implement school travel plans, broken down by local authority area. [191699]

Jim Knight: According to the most recent available figures, 14,063 schools in England have approved school travel plans.

The Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Transport are providing £7.5 million a year to fund a network of local authority based school travel plan advisers to work with schools to develop and implement school travel plans. DCSF is providing £20 million a year in capital grants to support maintained schools with approved travel plans—worth around £5,000 for a typical primary and around £10,000 for a typical secondary school.

The following table shows how many schools in England have received public funding to help develop or implement school travel plans by local authority area. This figure includes independent schools that receive school travel adviser assistance, but no grant funding.

Local authority	*Number of schools*	*School travel plans*
Luton	86	34
Peterborough	80	49
Southend	63	65
Thurrock	57	58
Norfolk	488	384
Bedfordshire	236	148
Suffolk	387	176
Essex	628	439
Cambridgeshire	281	147
Hertfordshire	596	369
Nottingham City	136	62
Leicester City	125	46
Derby City	115	68
Nottinghamshire	378	188
Derbyshire	452	225
Northants	354	175
Leicestershire	305	161
Lincolnshire	402	301
Rutland	27	13
Tower Hamlets	109	82
Islington	73	44
Hackney	98	56
Camden	92	35
Newham	100	57
Lambeth	96	61
Southwark	116	46
Hammersmith and Fulham	75	35
Westminster	85	16
Haringey	97	79
Kensington and Chelsea	74	20
Greenwich	98	71
Lewisham	too	47
Barking and Dagenham	62	31
Ealing	109	28
Waltham Forest	91	60
Wandsworth	113	47
Brent	98	40
Corporation of London	5	0
Enfield	100	50
Hounslow	91	60
Croydon	162	65
Hillingdon	101	57
Barnet	152	58
Redbridge	91	48
Harrow	85	28
Merton	66	45
Richmond	75	54
Bromley	115	81
Sutton	71	41
Havering	97	60
Bexley	87	38
Kingston	64	37
Middlesbrough	60	43
Newcastle	109	54
South Tyneside	72	42
Hartlepool	40	31
Redcar and Cleveland	60	57
Gateshead	96	54
Durham	299	199
Sunderland	122	24

Local authority	Number of schools	School travel plans
Stockton-on-Tees	86	39
Darlington	45	22
North Tyneside	84	33
Northumberland	211	105
Manchester	198	109
Liverpool	198	91
Knowsley	74	48
Wirral	146	71
Rochdale	119	62
Salford	121	60
Blackburn with Darwen	91	29
Halton	73	38
Blackpool	46	34
Oldham	120	54
St. Helens	74	38
Tameside	105	96
Sefton	121	67
Bolton	141	28
Wigan	139	59
Lancashire	692	323
Bury Metro	92	51
Cumbria	357	203
Stockport	140	74
Trafford	112	46
Cheshire	367	171
Warrington	92	54
Southampton	91	76
Slough	53	28
Brighton and Hove	97	66
Reading	63	41
Isle of Wight	74	32
Portsmouth	77	54
Milton Keynes	123	65
East Sussex	230	131
Kent	713	335
Medway	117	73
Oxfordshire	347	220
Hampshire	602	333
Surrey	530	278
West Berkshire	95	64
Bracknell Forest	45	26
Windsor and Maidenhead	84	31
West Sussex	356	222
Buckinghamshire	272	97
Wokingham	78	40
Bristol	181	91
Torbay	48	41
Plymouth	111	59
Bournemouth	46	29
Cornwall	297	168
North Somerset	89	62
Devon	422	298
Swindon	84	51
Gloucestershire	341	162
BANES	89	55
Somerset	318	141
South Gloucestershire	120	66
Wiltshire	276	142
Dorset	207	127
Poole	46	24
Scilly Isles	1	0
Birmingham	469	258
Sandwell	124	91
Stoke-on-Trent	105	68
Wolverhampton	121	74
Walsall	135	64
Coventry	130	77
Telford and Wrekin	83	77
Dudley	116	68
Solihull	94	49
Staffordshire	425	224
Worcestershire	291	188
Warwickshire	270	112
Herefordshire	115	86
Shropshire	190	146
Bradford	228	144
North East Lincolnshire	81	69
Leeds	286	150
Hull	103	40
Barnsley	101	71
Sheffield	191	126
Rotherham	135	101
Doncaster	138	77
Kirklees	211	85
Wakefield	164	76
Calderdale	115	71
North Lincolnshire	88	53
York	76	53
East Riding of Yorkshire	166	95
North Yorkshire	420	393
Total	25,040	14,063

Secondary Education: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* in total and *(b)* entitled to free school meals did not gain a place at their first preference secondary school in each of the last three years, broken down by ethnicity. [192627]

Jim Knight: The Department is collecting secondary school preference data from local authorities for the first time this year, which will include the number of families obtaining an offer at their first, second, third or lower preference school in each authority area. The data provided by local authorities will not include information on children's eligibility for free school meals or their ethnicity. The data will be published on 11 March 2008 on the DCSF Research Gateway at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway.

Special Educational Needs

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department gives to education authorities on the rights of parents of children with a statement of special educational needs to name a school for their children; and if he will make a statement; [192686]

(2) what guidance his Department gives to education authorities on the rights of parents of children with special educational needs to have an assessment and full statement of their children's needs; and if he will make a statement; [192687]

(3) what rights parents of children with special educational needs have to assistance in obtaining an independent assessment of their children's needs when in dispute with their education authority; and if he will make a statement. [192688]

Kevin Brennan: The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice is statutory guidance to which local authorities and others must have regard. It sets out parents' right under the Education Act 1996 to request an assessment of their children's special educational needs (SEN) and local authorities' duties, where necessary, to assess and to draw up SEN statements. The code includes guidance, and the regulations, setting out the form the statement must take. It advises local authorities of their duty to send parents draft statements with the name of the school left blank and invite the parents to request a maintained mainstream or special school or to make representations for a non-maintained school. The code makes clear, that where parents request a maintained school the local authority must name that school on the final statement unless the school is unsuitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude or SEN or naming the school would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children there or the efficient use of resources. A maintained school named on a final statement must admit the child.

Parents have the right to obtain an independent assessment of their child's SEN if they are in dispute with their local authority. If parents include the report of such an assessment in the advice they give to the local authority as part of the statutory assessment process then the local authority must take it into account when deciding whether to draw up a statement. If the parents appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal and include the report of the independent assessment in their statement of case then the tribunal panel must take it into account when considering the appeal.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many graduates educated at *(a)* Oxford or Cambridge University and *(b)* a Russell Group University entered teaching in each year since 1997. [191497]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the amount of time teachers spend preparing for lessons each week. [192145]

Jim Knight: The latest estimates of the amount of time spent per week by classroom teachers on planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) activities and, in particular, time spent on planning/preparing lessons are given in the following table.

Average hours spent per week[1] on working activities, including PPA (planning, preparation and assessment), by full-time classroom teachers, by school type

	Primary	*Secondary*	*Special*
Total hours worked (including PPA time)	51.5	48.7	45.0
Total time (in hours) spent on PPA (planning, preparation and assessment)	16.7	14.8	10.5
Of which:			
Time (in hours) spent on planning/preparing lesson, practical test or assessment	9.3	7.2	6.6

[1] The results are based upon diaries completed by a sample of teachers during a single week in March 2007. Therefore, the survey statistics do not necessarily provide an accurate guide to working patterns in other weeks of the year, although an important factor in selecting the week was that it was generally felt not to be unusual for term-time.

Source:

OME 'Teachers' Workloads Diary Survey 2007', March 2007

Teachers: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were physically assaulted by *(a)* pupils, *(b)* parents and *(c)* other persons in each of the last five years, broken down by local education authority. [192146]

Jim Knight: Data are not collected centrally on the number of teachers who have been subject to physical assault.

The Department does collect information on the number of exclusions from schools which occur following assault on an adult; this was collected for the first time for 2004/05. Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions due to assault against an adult, broken down by local education authority, and covering primary and secondary and special schools for 2004/05 has been placed in the House of Commons Library. In 2005/06 information is available for secondary schools only; this has also been placed in the Library.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* suspended and reinstated in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [191302]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Early Retirement

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took early retirement from posts in schools in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last 10 years. [192122]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider introducing specific measures to attract veterans leaving the armed forces into a career in teaching. [191333]

Jim Knight: We are already working on a number of measures to encourage service leavers to enter a teaching career.

We have been working with the Ministry of Defence on ways to encourage more service leavers to take up a career in secondary level specialist teaching in science, mathematics and ICT subjects. In addition to promoting existing opportunities for individuals to consider teaching through the MOD's Career Transition Partnership, we have also announced our intention to establish a new programme called Transition to Teaching in the Children's Plan. This will be a collaboration between employers and the Training and Development Agency for Schools to encourage people who are leaving employment, including service leavers, in scientific, technological or mathematical fields to consider training to become teachers of mathematics, science or ICT.

In addition, we are currently investigating possible ways of helping service leavers without degrees to gain degrees while they train to become teachers. Proposals are currently at a very early stage and we will announce further details as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Teachers: Misconduct

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were accused of misconduct by *(a)* pupils and *(b)* parents in each year since 2002. [191295]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect data on the number of teachers accused of misconduct by pupils and parents.

Teachers: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers without qualified teacher status were teaching in schools in each year since 1997. [191305]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers without qualified teacher status (QTS) employed in local authority maintained schools in England in each January, 1997 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent teachers without qualified teacher status (QTS) in service in the local authority maintained sector in England: January of each year.

January	*Overseas trained teachers and instructors without QTS*	*Teachers on employment based routes to QTS*[1]	*Total*
1997	2,480	460	2,940
1998	2,640	570	3,210
1999	3,070	470	3,540
2000	3,240	580	3,820
2001	4,340	1,280	5,620
2002	8,140	3,320	11,460
2003	11,030	4,200	15,230
2004	11,610	6,040	17,640
2005	12,150	6,430	18,570
2006	11,810	6,100	17,910
2007	10,970	5,740	16,710

[1] Those on the Graduate Teacher programme, the Registered Teachers programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers programme or the Teach First scheme).

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took time off work for depression or stress-related illnesses in each of the last 10 years; how much time was taken off; and if he will make a statement. [192144]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when small group tuition will be available across England. [180465]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to every child having access to personalised learning support, which could include small group tuition, to ensure that every child achieves their potential. As part of personalising learning for children and young people, the Government are encouraging schools to consider the opportunities for children beyond the school day, and in particular through extended schools. The extended school core offer includes a varied menu of activities for children and young people, with study support as part of this. The Government have committed over £13 billion over the next three years to support the development of extended schools, and included in this is funding to support small group academic focused study support in some secondary schools, with funding for this becoming available in 2009/10.

In addition, the Every Child a Reader programme is providing support to six to seven-year-olds who are struggling to learn to read. An expert literacy intervention teacher will be trained in every school that is part of this programme. Their first task will be to provide one to one support to children with the greatest difficulties in learning to read. They will also give small group tuition to children with less severe reading difficulties.

Trust Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools became trust schools in each year for which the data are available. [192393]

Jim Knight: 30 schools became trust schools in September 2007—the first to acquire trust schools status. As of 29 February 2008, 37 trust schools were operational.

The regulations of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 governing trust schools came into force in May 2007 and according to our records there were no trust schools set up under that legislation before August 2007.

Work Experience

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is towards supporting summer internships by *(a)* school children and *(b)* school leavers. [181034]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not have a specific policy about summer internships by school children, or school leavers. There is, however, a statutory requirement for schools to provide work-related learning for 14 to 16-year-olds. From September 2008 we are also introducing new Diplomas for 14-19s which cover a wide range of business sectors. Work-related learning includes work experience placements which can be organised flexibly and which prepare young people for adult and working life. Additionally, many young people have access to summer schools as part of the Aimhigher and City Challenge programmes.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds not in full-time education or training, broken down by local education authority area in the East of England. [169967]

Jim Knight: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June (see following link; this also includes local participation estimates, but only for 16 and 17-year-olds).

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

The Department also publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are only available for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local participation estimates cover those in full-time education, part-time education, and Work Based Learning, but do not identify young people in employer funded training[1] or other education and training[2] apart from those on a part-time education course. This means that young people on such training will be included in the "not in education or Work Based Learning" figure.

[1] Employer funded training covers employees who have received training in the past four weeks, other than those in Work Based Learning.

[2] Other education and training covers young people who are studying but are not included in other categories. For example those attending independent colleges or training centres, or those at any college in part-time study not reported as released from job.

The most recent local estimates for local authorities in the East of England region relate to the end of 2005, and are shown in the following table. The equivalent national estimates, calculated on the same basis, are also shown for comparison.

Proportion of young people not in education or Work Based Learning by academic age, end 2005

	Percentage			Number[1]		
	16 year olds	*17 year olds*	*16 and 17 year olds*	*16 year olds*	*17 year olds*	*16 and 17 year olds*
East of England Government office region	14	25	19	9,700	17,800	27,500
Local authorities						
Bedfordshire[2]	11	20	16	900	1,700	2,600
Bedfordshire[3]	11	19	15	600	1,000	1,600
Luton[3]	12	22	17	300	600	900
Cambridgeshire[2]	11	26	19	1,000	2,600	3,700
Cambridgeshire[3]	11	25	18	800	2,000	2,700
Peterborough[3]	13	29	21	300	600	900
Essex[2]	17	29	23	3,700	6,200	9,900
Essex[3]	17	28	22	2,900	4,900	7,800
Southend-on-Sea[3]	18	27	22	300	600	900
Thurrock[3]	21	38	30	400	800	1,200
Hertfordshire[2]	8	17	13	1,200	2,300	3,500
Norfolk[2]	15	27	21	1,500	2,700	4,200
Suffolk[2]	16	25	20	1,400	2,200	3,700
England	14	24	19	91,900	160,800	252,700

[1] Numbers may not add because of independent rounding.

[2] 'Upper tier authorities' (eg Bedfordshire)

[3] 'Lower tier authorities' (eg Bedfordshire)

Note:

The lower tier areas combine to form the upper tier authorities

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 March 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many branded plastic bags have been purchased by the House of Commons, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [192168]

Nick Harvey: Since April 2006 some 184,000 branded plastic bags have been purchased by the House of Commons at a total cost of some £10,400.

From April 2008, once all existing stocks have been exhausted, bags for souvenirs and bookshop sales will be replaced by 'biothene' which is biodegradable polythene.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191515]

Mr. Woodward: None of those people recruited to the Northern Ireland Office in the last three years has been over 55 years of age.

Age requirements for appointment to the civil service are that appointees should have reached the age of 16 on or before the 1 July prior to the date of appointment and be less than 65 years of age at the date of appointment.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179887]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2206-07W.

The civil service nationality rules, which are statutorily based, govern eligibility for employment in the civil service. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Sexual Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent monitoring sex offenders in the community in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [193034]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the form requested. The delivery of offender specific risk management plans, through the current multi-agency sex offender risk assessment and management (MASRAM) arrangements, makes varying demands on a number of agencies, such as police, prisons, probation, social services and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which would be difficult to quantify for each individual agency. All agencies involved in the MASRAM arrangements are committed to providing whatever resources are considered necessary to deliver the appropriate risk management plan for each individual offender.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191075]

Mr. Woodward: All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have purchased 15 plasma television screens in the last 24 months at a total cost of £106,079.

The majority of the costs have been in relation to specialist video conferencing televisions providing enhancements to the video conferencing facilities in the Northern Ireland Office. These costs are offset by the significant savings to the Northern Ireland Office generated through the use of video conferencing facilities, resulting in reduced travel and subsistence costs between Belfast and London and staff time savings. Plasma screens are also used to promote the latest departmental news and provide other information to staff and visitors at major departmental establishments within the Stormont estate and London.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress the Law Officers' Departments have made in their zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191480]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the annex pertaining (in part) to the Law Officers' Departments (D7) in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

Value for Money Delivery Agreements in respect of all the Law Officers' Departments (the Attorney-General's Office, Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and Treasury Solicitor (one agreement); Crown Prosecution Service; Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office and Serious Fraud Office) can all be found at:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/sub_publications_foi.htm

Departmental Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189812]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) spent £105,530 on bottled water for water coolers in 2006-07. This cost includes all aspects of the bottled water service such as sanitisation and the purchase of cups.

The CPS does not hold central records of expenditure on other forms of bottled water and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate does not routinely purchase bottled water. Staff in both its offices (in London and York) are provided with drinking water which draws on the main supply. There are occasions (e.g. training at outside events) where the supply of bottled water is integral to the provision of meals or hospitality. Such amounts are minimal (in the order of £50-£100 per annum) and cannot be quantified further.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office spent £120 on bottled water during the 12 months between March 2007 and February 2008.

Bottled water is not purchased by the Serious Fraud Office for office staff. Filtered and chilled water is in place for office staff to drink. £3,640 (+VAT) is spent annually on the maintenance contract for filtered water.

It is not possible to separate the cost of buying bottled water from the overall refreshment costs on those occasions when bottled water is bought for meetings without incurring disproportionate cost.

In financial year ending 31 March 2007 the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Attorney General's Office spent a total of £5,479.61 on the provision of water for water dispensers. Expenditure information on the occasional provision of bottled water is not separately available.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people in the Law Officers' Departments have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189774]

The Solicitor-General: The guidance on home working in the Attorney-General's Office and Treasury Solicitor's Department contains the following paragraph:

> 'In theory all staff are eligible to work from home. However there will be some jobs and some people who are not suited to this arrangement. The manager will need to consider each case on its merits, taking account of
>
> The business needs of the organisation
>
> The security of the information'.

No centralised record of home working is held in either organisation, with individual managers managing the working arrangement in their own area. There is thus no simple way of identifying accurately how many people have taken advantage of working from home in the last 12 months.

Remote access (where people can log on through the Government Secure Internet to personal files/directories, departmental intranet and departmental e-mail) is currently available to 118 people, via laptop, and this is fully subscribed.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has 150 employees who are designated as home workers. Of these, 144 are duty prosecutors in CPS Direct and six are human resources business partners.

The CPS's flexible working policy means that the opportunity to work from home on an occasional basis is available to permanent employees, when deemed appropriate by their line manager. To obtain precise figures for the number of people who have worked from home would incur disproportionate costs.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate does not employ any staff specifically on a home working basis. However, there is flexibility for staff by agreement with line managers to undertake appropriate duties from home where this is compatible with its business need.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has four members of staff with agreements to work from home on a regular basis.

Five employees of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) work at home on a on a permanent basis, owing to the geographical requirements of their roles. A survey of all SFO staff was carried out in 2007. Of those who returned the survey, 28 (11 per cent.) indicated they worked from home either under formal or informal arrangements. These have worked at home for varying lengths of time mainly through the use of a laptop computer. All members of the SFO can request to work from home.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by the *(a)* Attorney-General's Office and *(b)* the Treasury Solicitor's Department in each of the last three years. [191516]

The Solicitor-General: Examination of the records held for the Attorney-General's Office and Treasury Solicitor's Department confirms that no person over the age of 55 was recruited by either organisation in 2004, 2005 or 2006. This accords with the table (placed in the Library) sourced from the 2004-06 Civil Service Statistics Mandate collection.

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General what devolution issues she has recently considered. [191328]

The Solicitor-General: Devolution issues in cases in Scotland are notified under the Scotland Act 1998 to the Advocate-General, rather than the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has not been notified of any devolution issues in cases in England and Wales or Northern Ireland under the Scotland Act 1998 or of any devolution issues under the Government of Wales Act 2006. The last devolution issue notified to the Attorney-General under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 was in June 2007.

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many plasma television screens have been purchased by the Attorney-General's Department in each of the last five years, and at what cost. [191122]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office bought six flat screen televisions for the refurbishment of their new headquarters, 20 Victoria street in spring 2007, costing £5,376.67 plus VAT.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS's) records show that it has purchased one plasma television screen in the last five years. It was purchased in 2005 and cost £5,287, including installation costs.

CPS central records only hold items that cost over the capitalisation threshold of £500 and it is possible that plasma television screen(s) have been purchased by CPS Area(s) at a lower cost. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has not purchased any plasma television screens in the last five years.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office has purchased one plasma television screen, in March 2006 at a cost of £1,290 plus VAT.

The Serious Fraud Office spent £10,664.70 (plus VAT) in 2007 on the purchase of five plasma television screens.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department purchased two plasma television screens in each of the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, at a respective cost of £3,198 plus VAT (2005); £1,798 plus VAT (2006); and £3,302 plus VAT (2007).

WALES

Foreign Relations

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Foreign Secretary and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government on educational, cultural and business links between Wales and (i) the People's Republic of China, (ii) India and (iii) the Republic of South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [192334]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and the Assembly Government on all issues affecting Wales. I will continue to work in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government to promote Wales on the international stage.

The First Minister recently signed a Co-operation Agreement with Chongqing municipality while visiting China, further strengthening economic and cultural links between the two countries. The Deputy First Minister recently led a Trade Mission delegation to India in November last year, further enhancing the activities of International Business Wales in respect of inward investment, trade and the creative industries. I am also aware that South Africa continues to remain a strong trade partner for Wales, particularly in Welsh export destinations.

The Prime Minister recently visited both China and India in January this year, one of the main purposes of the visit being to build on the strong trade and investment links between Britain and the two countries.

Learning Disability: Employment

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, *(b)* Mencap Cymru and *(c)* the Shaw Trust on employment opportunities for young people with learning difficulties in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [192085]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and the voluntary sector on a range of issues including employment opportunities for young people with learning difficulties in Wales.

The vision of both the UK and Welsh Assembly Governments, and that of the voluntary sector, is one of full social inclusion, where social barriers are dismantled and everyone has access to the services they require to be able to lead fulfilled lives. The Government are fully aware that this can be achieved through closer partnership working and collaboration, not just within government, but also across the voluntary, private and public sector organisations including Mencap and the Shaw Trust.

Organisations like these and Learning Disability Wales, which the Assembly Government sponsor, play a key role in enabling children and young people with learning difficulties to realise their aspirations and skills including gaining opportunities towards employment.

Pay: Courts

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will meet Ministerial colleagues to discuss the effects of the introduction of regional pay in the Courts Service in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [192364]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I regularly meet ministerial colleagues to discuss matters of importance in Wales.

Regional pay is not a new development—it is a reality in the economy as a whole, and HMCS is reacting to regional pay, rather than creating it. The Government's policy is that pay should reflect local labour market conditions. Key to addressing this is to foster and encourage the development of a strong private sector with well paid jobs in Wales, so the pay arrangements in HMCS should reflect the wider labour market fundamentals for this work force, especially recruitment and retention. But I am aware that our approach needs to ensure careful consideration of all the potential effects of regional pay, to ensure that our pay policy promotes economic growth in regions.

Unemployment

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the level of economic inactivity in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [192084]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues including the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a range of issues affecting Wales, including the economy and related matters.

In February 2008, the economic inactivity level in Wales fell by 9,000 to 439,000, while the economic inactivity rate in Wales was 24.6 per cent., down 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Boilers: Safety Measures

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what informal action the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) took following July 2003 in relation to faulty water heaters referred to in the HSE press release of 19 July 2007. [192409]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE took a number of actions concerning its investigation into the scalding and subsequent death of Sharon Minister on 10 June 2002:

1. In August 2003 HSE provided officials at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with a report prepared for the coroner, in response to their request;
2. HSE contacted the British Standards Institution and agreed an amendment to the wording of warning labelling for thermoplastic cold water cistern tanks (BS4213:2004 Systems for domestic use. Cold water storage and combined feed and expansion (thermoplastic) systems up to 500l. Specification.);
3. HSE worked with the Government News Network to issue a press release about the cause of the scalding to the heating and ventilation trade press;
4. Following its investigation, HSE provided advice to the housing association responsible for the rented accommodation in which Mrs. Minister was injured.

Crime: Death

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fatalities relating to falls from height were incurred as a result of felonious activity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [190839]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* National Statistics on work-related accidents are derived from reports made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). The types of incidents described, involving deaths resulting from deliberate criminal activity, would not normally be reportable and so statistics are not available. For a death to be reportable it must arise out of or in connection with a work activity. A death of an adult, who is not at work, that results from their own deliberate criminal acts would not normally be regarded as arising from a work activity.

Housing Benefit: Waiting Lists

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the average time taken to process a housing benefit claim had been reduced to *(a)* 48 days nationally and *(b)* 55 days across the bottom performing 15 per cent. of local authorities by March 2008. [193226]

Mr. Plaskitt: Yes. In 2006-07, the average time taken to process a new housing benefit and council tax benefit claim was 33 calendar days nationally and 54 days for the bottom 15 per cent.

The national average for the first six months of 2007-08 was 28 days, and the bottom 15 per cent. took an average of 39 days.

Industrial Health and Safety: Materials Handling Equipment

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths were recorded in incidents involving cranes or lifting equipment on construction sites in each of the last five years. [192544]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last five full reporting years, the number of fatal injuries in construction sustained in incidents involving cranes or lifting equipment, reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), is provided in the following table. It includes workers and members of the public.

1 April to 31 March	*Agent*	*Fatalities*
2002-03	Lorry crane	1
	Tower crane	1
	Misc. portable containers	1
	Other conveying, lifting, storage	1
	Total	4
2003-04	Tower crane	1
	Fixed crane	1
	Other crane	1
	Other lifting equipment	2
	Elevated work platform	1
	Total	6
2004-05	Lorry crane	1
	Tower crane	4
	Other crane	1
	Rough terrain lift truck	1
	Total	7
2005-06	Elevator	1
	Rough terrain lift truck	1
	Total	2
2006-07[1]	Lorry crane	1
	Tower crane	3
	Mobile crane	2
	Other crane	1
	Other lifting equipment	1
	Misc. portable containers	1
	Gas cylinders, bottles, aerosols	1
	Elevated work platform	2
	Total	12

[1] Figures for 2006-07 are provisional until the release of 2007-08 figures in July 2008. Reporting years run from 1 April to 31 March each year.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths were recorded on construction sites resulting from *(a)* falls, *(b)* collapses, *(c)* accidents involving vehicles and *(d)* other causes in each of the last five years. [192545]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last five full reporting years the number of fatal injuries sustained from falls, collapses, accidents involving vehicles and other causes in construction, reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), is provided in the following table. They include workers and members of the public.

1 April to 31 March	*Falls*	*Collapses*	*Vehicles*	*Other*	*Total*
2002-03	34	5	6	30	75
2003-04	40	3	10	22	75
2004-05	27	13	7	30	77
2005-06	26	4	8	26	64
2006-07[1]	26	8	6	44	84

[1] Figures for 2006-07 are provisional until the release of 2007-08 figures in July 2008. Reporting years run from 1 April to 31 March each year.

Pension Service: Telephone Services

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the revenue received from customers telephoning on telephone numbers beginning with 08 by the Pension Service in the last five financial years. [183041]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This figure is a lump sum and BT do not break it down by Agency. However the Department's use of 0845 numbers did attract a rebate from BT which was running at approximately £0.5 million per annum, this being offset against DWP telephony costs. The rebate ceased on 14 December 2007.

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency received assistance under the minimum income guarantee in the most recent period for which figures are available. [191960]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency 2,050 households were in receipt of the pension credit guarantee credit as at August 2007—of which 790 households were in receipt of the guarantee credit only and 1,260 households were in receipt of both the guarantee credit and savings credit.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 31 August 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. We have taken the minimum income guarantee to mean the pension credit guarantee credit.

3. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Pensions: Widowed People

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to disregard widow and widowers pensions from pension credit calculations. [188246]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

State Retirement Pensions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have had their UK state pensions frozen since 2000; how many had their pensions frozen in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189432]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at March 2007 there were 530,600 state pensions in payment at a frozen rate, of which 185,300 had been frozen on or after 1 April 2000.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extract of PSCS, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. Figures are based on the live caseload as at March each year where the pension in payment is at the frozen rate.

4. Figures for 2007 are not available.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample data

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming their state pension who have never worked and have claimed out-of-work benefits. [190053]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the form requested.

Winter Fuel Payments: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who were eligible for winter fuel payments in each local authority area in Hampshire did not claim payments in each of the last five years for which information is available. [190036]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim, based on information held in DWP records. A small number of people whose circumstances we do not know, for instance because they are not on State Pension or other benefits administered by DWP, need to make a claim so that their eligibility can be assessed. It is therefore not possible to say how many people may be eligible for a winter fuel payment and are not receiving it. We can only assess eligibility for those people who are in contact with the Department and whose circumstances are known to us.

The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made in each local authority area in Hampshire over each of the last five years. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for winter 2006-07.

Hampshire local authority area	*Payments made*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basingstoke and Deane	25,490	26,010	26,310	27,010	27,970
East Hampshire	22,430	22,980	23,330	23,960	24,740
Eastleigh	22,090	22,510	22,720	23,170	23,780
Fareham	23,940	24,400	24,720	25,240	26,010
Gosport	15,430	15,580	15,630	15,830	16,160
Hart	14,860	15,330	15,830	16,290	16,980
Havant	27,850	28,170	28,140	28,560	29,090
New Forest	46,750	47,360	47,520	48,030	49,050
Rushmoor	12,380	12,520	12,540	12,730	13,040
Test Valley	21,380	21,980	22,350	22,990	23,830
Winchester	22,940	23,300	23,470	23,930	24,520

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

TRANSPORT

Air Traffic Control

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has conducted into technologies to *(a)* allow air traffic controllers to take control of aircraft and land them remotely and *(b)* provide computerised safeguards against aircraft crashes. [192512]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority is responsible for aviation safety within the UK. It has not carried out any research on computerised safeguards designed to prevent aircraft crashes. It has however carried out research to evaluate a range of technologies that might address particular risks, such as runway incursions or fire in the cabin.

The Department does not comment on whether or not it is considering technologies with aviation security applications.

Aviation: Sustainable Development

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times she, her Ministers or her officials have met representatives of *(a)* Friends of the Earth, *(b)* Greenpeace, *(c)* the World Wildlife Fund, *(d)* AirportWatch, *(e)* the Aviation Environment Federation, *(f)* HACAN Clearskies, *(g)* Stop Stansted Expansion, *(h)* Plane Stupid, *(i)* the Council for the Protection of Rural England, *(j)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *(k)* the Woodland Trust and *(l)* Enoughsenough to discuss the sustainable growth of aviation in the UK since September 2007. [185816]

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* her officials have met representatives of (i) Friends of the Earth, (ii) Greenpeace, (iii) WWF-UK, (iv) Airportwatch, (v) Stop Stansted Expansion, (vi) Plane Stupid, (vii) the Aviation Environment Federation, (viii) Enough's Enough, (ix) Hacan Clearskies, (x) the Campaign to Protect Rural England, (xi) the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and (xii) the Woodland Trust to discuss issues related to the sustainable growth of aviation in the UK in the last six months; and how often such meetings have taken place. [185806]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State met a number of representatives of environmental groups, including many of these organisations, on 10 September 2007. In addition I had a meeting with a range of environmental groups, including many of these and others on 21 November in connection with the Department's consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow.

Officials meet representatives of environmental groups regularly, for example in meetings of the External Advisory Group on the Air Transport White Paper, or on an ad hoc basis to discuss specific issues.

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions have been drawn from her Department's study of cycle safety. [189430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is currently developing a new research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. The Department intends to commission this research shortly and the final report will be in 2011; there will also be an interim report in 2009.

Departmental Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187742]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel arrangements in the Department for Transport and its agencies are made in the most efficient and cost-effective way, and all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in staff handbooks.

The Department for Transport (central) does not record travel costs differentiated by class of travel. The total amount spent on Eurostar tickets in 2007 was £1,390,440.

One of the Department's agencies spent £1,485.05 on Eurostar first-class tickets, and £630 on other classes, and one agency records no Eurostar expenditure in the same period.

The Department's other five agencies cannot separate Eurostar from other rail or general travel costs and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in her Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187546]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DfT(C) and three of its agencies do not record expenses payments differentiated by grade. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The four agencies which do record senior civil servants expenses separately from those of other staff spent £267,364 in calendar year 2007, on a total of 45 staff.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192062]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of her Department's overall expenditure was spent on officials' travel costs in each year for which figures are available. [187574]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel arrangements in the Department for Transport and its agencies are made in the most efficient and cost-effective way, and all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in staff handbooks.

The Department and six of its agencies (DSA, DVLA, GCDA, HA, MCA and VGA) spent 2.2 per cent. of overall administration and running costs expenditure on travel in financial year 2003-04, 2.3 per cent. in 2004-05, 2.2 per cent. in 2005-06, and 2.2 per cent. in 2006-07.

The remaining agency, VOSA, does not hold the information as requested, and could provide it only at disproportionate cost.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who has access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [179889]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport takes the issues of privacy and data security extremely seriously, and keeps its policies on data sharing under active review.

Direct access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) registers is available only to security cleared DVLA staff who have a business need to access that data, and Fujitsu database administrators. Depending on the business need, staff are able to view or amend records to maintain DVLA's registers.

A full download of both the driver and vehicle registers is provided daily to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for inclusion on the Police National Computer (PNC).

DVLA is rolling out its Driver Validation Service (DVS) to the police to provide instant access to drivers' information through the desktop. DVS provides an interface between the Police National Computer and the drivers' register which only allows authenticated users to submit enquiries on drivers' records via the Government Secure Internet. To date 12 forces in England and Wales, and all nine forces in Scotland have live access to this service.

In addition, North Wales police are piloting a new system which provides DVS through handheld devices, facilitating access to drivers' details, including photograph and signature, at the roadside. This will allow for immediate identification and help the police to enforce against unlicensed and disqualified drivers while negating the need for motorists to produce their driving licence at a police station.

DVLA shares driver data with other public bodies on a case by case basis on receipt of individual applications. The government bodies that have previously requested information include:

Department for Work and Pensions;

Home Office;

Ministry of Justice;

HM Revenue and Customs;

Ministry of Defence;

Local authorities/councils;

Driver licensing authorities/operator licensing authorities in other EU/Crown dependant/overseas territories who are members of the European Car and Driving Licence Information System (EUCARIS).

The reason for disclosure will vary from Department to Department.

Driver data may also be disclosed to the following types of commercial companies with the consent of the individual motorist:

Car hire companies;

Insurance companies, or their intermediaries;

Those employing drivers, or their intermediaries;

Motability.

In addition to the Government Departments listed above, DVLA may also disclose vehicle data to local authorities investigating an offence or a decriminalised parking contravention, customs officers, or those individuals or public and private bodies that can demonstrate 'reasonable cause' to need such data. The types of organisations that have previously been able to demonstrate 'reasonable cause' are available at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/AdviceOnKeepingYourVehicle/DG_4022066

What constitutes 'reasonable cause' will vary from case to case. Decisions on whether to release data take account of the reasons provided for the request and the supporting evidence. Information provided in return is only that which is relevant and proportional to the inquiry. No organisation has unfettered access.

Five commercial companies are provided with a bulk download of the vehicle data, excluding vehicle keeper data, to provide vehicle checking services. This information is updated periodically and matched with police and insurance industry data so that those considering purchasing a vehicle may confirm that the vehicle is as presented and is not stolen, scrapped or seriously damaged.

Finally, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 624-26, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

East Coast Railway Line: Electric Cables

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times services on the *(a)* East Coast and *(b)* West Coast Main Line were disrupted as a result of damage to overhead wires in each of the last five years; where each incidence of damage occurred; and how long each disruption lasted. [192665]

Mr. Tom Harris: Information on the disruption of rail services is collected and processed by Network Rail. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail for this information at the following address:

Mr. Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Heathrow Airport: Local Authorities

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have been consulted on proposals to build a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [191511]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation was widely advertised in local, London regional and national media, and all the consultation materials—including an online response facility—were available on our website. Any party with an interest had the opportunity to respond. In addition, my answer to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1412-13W, described the approach we adopted for distributing the consultation documents and the organisations to which documents were sent.

Leamside Line

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the future of the Leamside line following the conclusion of the Rail Utilisation Strategy for the East Coast Main Line. [193370]

Mr. Tom Harris: The publication of the East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy by Network Rail at the end of February did not promote increased use of the Leamside line for the foreseeable future. The Secretary of State does not propose any further assessment.

Lorries: Safety Measures

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on ensuring that all newly-registered heavy goods vehicles after 10 October 2009 are fitted with retro-reflective markings; [192779]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect that mandatory retro-reflective markings on all newly-registered heavy goods vehicles will have on accident rates involving heavy goods vehicles at night; [192780]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of motor vehicles and trailers that will be fitted with retro-reflective markings by the end of *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [192781]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following European and wider negotiations, we agreed to introduce new retro-reflective markings requirements for new trucks exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight (GVW) and new trailers exceeding 3.5 tonnes GVW by 10 October 2009. Implementation will be via our national lighting regulations and no further discussions with European counterparts are planned.

The markings are mainly expected to affect side or rear impact heavy vehicle incidents taking place in the dark and/or in poor visibility, where poor conspicuity would otherwise be a contributory factor. Estimates suggest that if all goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes GVW and their trailers were fitted with these markings 10 fatal, 33 serious and 142 slight accidents per year might be mitigated or prevented; but this is likely to be an over-estimate for Great Britain, where such vehicles already benefit from various conspicuity aids.

We estimate that each year an additional 8.9 per cent. of the over 7.5 tonne GVW vehicle parc and their trailers will be fitted with the markings. Assuming all relevant new vehicles registered from October 2009 are so fitted we calculate that by the end of *(a)* 2009 approximately 2 per cent. of relevant vehicles will be marked, *(b)* 2010, 11 per cent. and *(c)* 2011, 20 per cent.

Motorways: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work to *(a)* commence and *(b)* conclude on the infrastructure for hard shoulder running on (i) the rest of the M42, (ii) the M6, *(c)* the M1 from East Midlands up to Leeds and *(d)* the M27 around Southampton. [192717]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 25 October 2007 the Secretary of State announced a £150 million scheme to install new traffic management measures, including hard shoulder running, on the motorways around Birmingham. This includes: the M6 between junctions 4 and 5, and 8 and 10a; the M42 between junctions 7 and 9; and the M40 from junction 16 to its junction with the M42. This scheme is expected to enter construction in 2009-10 and is scheduled for completion by summer 2011.

On 4 March 2008 the Secretary of State announced the results of the feasibility study into advance motorway signalling and traffic management. This highlighted routes where hard shoulder running could represent a high value transport solution, including parts of the M1, M6 and M27. The Department of Transport is now working to examine the practicality of installing more hard shoulder running on these routes in more detail. Schemes will be brought forward in due course, where they are the most appropriate solution for addressing identified transport problems and represent value for money.

Park and Ride Schemes: Olympic Games 2012

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had on the provision of park and ride sites for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [192716]

Mr. Tom Harris: Transport plans for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are being developed by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), and are discussed regularly with my officials. Park and ride forms an important part of those plans and the ODA estimate that up to 10 per cent. of spectators to the Olympic park will travel by park and ride. The ODA is in the process of assessing and acquiring suitable sites for park and ride operations. In addition, park and rail services will run from Ebbsfleet to Stratford International station.

Parliament Square: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females, broken down by age group, were (i) slightly and (ii) seriously injured whilst (A) crossing the road and (B) taking part in a public demonstration in Parliament Square in each of the last five years for which information is available. [192612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of *(a)* male pedestrians and *(b)* female pedestrians, in each age group who were slightly injured in reported personal injury road accidents whilst crossing the road in Parliament Square in 2002 to 2006 are shown in the table.

		Number of slightly injured pedestrian casualties			
	Gender	*0-15*	*16-59*	*60+*	*All*
2002	Male	0	2	1	3
	Female	0	2	0	2
2003	Male	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0
2004	Male	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0
2005	Male	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	3	0	3
2006	Male	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0

In 2002, there was one seriously injured male pedestrian casualty, age unknown, resulting from a reported personal injury road accident while crossing the road in Parliament Square. There have been no further such casualties since 2002.

Information on the number of casualties resulting from taking part in a public demonstration in Parliament Square is not collected.

Railways

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of *(a)* railway track and *(b)* road there are in each Government region; and if she will make a statement. [192435]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail network track mileage total in each Government region is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2EE.

The most recent figures available for road mileage by Government office region relate to 2006. These can be found in the following table.

	Total road length (miles)
North East	10,100
North West	23,079
Yorkshire and the Humber	20,148
East Midlands	19,638
West Midlands	20,687
East England	24,905
London	9,275
South East	29,752
South West	31,369
Wales	21,311
Scotland	37,260

The road lengths provided are the total length of roads maintained by the Highways Agency, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities. Private road lengths are not included.

The lengths are obtained using information from Ordnance Survey, Government offices and local authorities.

Railways: Greenwich

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will use the revenue from recent fines imposed on Network Rail to extend platforms and upgrade the electricity supply on rail lines serving Eltham, Woolwich Arsenal and New Eltham. [192733]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2832W.

Roads

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of potholes in roads maintained by the Highways Agency. [192167]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency works to standards designed to avoid potholes forming as far as is possible. Potholes identified during routine patrols are dealt with as quickly as possible. The number of potholes on the network at any one time is not recorded.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were reported on *(a)* the A2 in Bexley borough, *(b)* the A20 in Bexley borough, *(c)* Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, *(d)* Okehampton Crescent, Welling, *(e)* Bourne Road, Bexley, *(f)* Gravel Hill, Bexley, *(g)* Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, *(h)* Knee Hill, Abbey Wood, *(i)* Park View Road, Bexleyheath, *(j)* Broadway, Bexleyheath, *(k)* Avenue Road, Bexleyheath, *(l)* Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath and *(m)* Long Lane, Bexleyheath in 2006-07. [193212]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is shown in the table:

Number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police by location: GB 2006

Accident location	*Number of accidents*
(a) The A2 in Bexley borough	42
(b) The A20 in Bexley borough	19
(c) Brampton Road, Bexleyheath	5
(d) Okehampton Crescent, Welling	4
(e) Bourne Road, Bexley	7
(f) Gravel Hill, Bexley	8
(g) Upper Wickham Lane, Welling	9
(h) Knee Hill, Abbey Wood	4
(i) Park View Road, Bexleyheath	12
(j) Broadway, Bexleyheath	16
(k) Avenue Road, Bexleyheath	4
(l) Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath	7
(m) Long Lane, Bexleyheath	7

Source:
Transport for London

Data for 2007 are not available.

Trains: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1846W, on trains: fuels, for what reason her Department had not placed a copy of the research project assessing the potential role of biomethane as a renewable transport fuel in the Library by 4 March. [192463]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The report referred to is the Analysis of Biogas within the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. Copies were placed in the House Libraries on 26 February (Library reference: DEP 2008-0564).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees: Diseases

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public funds and resources have been allocated to research into colony collapse disorder. [193045]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is aware of the press reports last year about the serious situation in the USA in respect of cases of abnormally high levels of colony loss, described as colony collapse disorder (CCD).

Scientists and inspectors at DEFRA'S National Bee Unit (NBU) are continuing to monitor the situation in the USA and are in contact with experts in the UK and in Europe to keep abreast of developments. To date, we do not have evidence to suggest that there is something similar happening in the UK.

The limited number of cases of high losses which have occurred in the UK this season, for which there is no ready explanation, are being investigated in depth as part of the NBU's horizon-scanning work.

Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through regional development agencies' single pot. [179231]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* A full answer to the hon. Member's question could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My Department is providing £75 million in 2007-08 to the Regional Development Agencies' (RDAs) Single Programme, which contributes to delivery of a range of Government policies, including those for business support, enterprise and economic development. RDAs' objectives for the next spending period, including those for business support, will be set out in their corporate plans which will be published in the spring.

In addition, there are other programmes and activities funded by DEFRA to deliver a range of objectives with businesses, the public sector and consumers. These include axes 1 and 3 of the Rural Development Programme for England (which provide assistance to make agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable and to enhance opportunity in rural areas), support on resource efficiency and waste (delivered through a number of bodies including the Carbon Trust, WRAP, Envirowise and NISP), the Agriculture Development Scheme (now closed to new applications) and activities carried out by English Farming and Food Partnerships, Food from Britain, the International Agri-technology Centre and the National Non-Food Crops Centre. Total spending on these programmes and activities in 2007-08 amounts to approximately £228.22 million. However, it is not possible to separate out the business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development elements of this spending without incurring disproportionate costs.

Decisions on the budgets for these programmes for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 which follow the comprehensive spending review settlement last autumn have not been finalised yet. These are expected before the start of the new financial year.

Coastal Fishing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the introduction of measures to restrict inshore netting in order to improve stocks for recreational anglers. [193416]

Jonathan Shaw: Last year I announced a review of inshore netting restrictions and bass nursery areas, for the benefit of both inshore recreational angling and commercial fishing. I am also currently consulting on a draft recreational sea angling strategy which considers a package of measures for the development of recreational sea fishing. Once this consultation closes on 31 March 2008, DEFRA officials will meet stakeholders to agree how to take forward the review of inshore netting and bass nursery areas. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) has been commissioned to conduct various studies to help progress these reviews.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191490]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7277).

The summary results of DEFRA's zero-based budget reviews were also published in "Defra Value for Money Delivery Agreement Comprehensive Spending Review 2007" which is available on DEFRA's website.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189784]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not keep centrally held records of staff who work from home and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home working commences because it enables DEFRA to both recruit and maintain a diverse work force. Home working helps staff maintain a work-life balance. DEFRA is committed to helping its staff maintain a work-life balance and recognises that home working can help to reduce the need to travel to work thereby removing journey time and potentially reducing overall transport congestion and pollution as well as individual stress levels. Therefore, DEFRA believes that home working contributes not just to staff welfare but ultimately to the delivery of a high quality service to our customers. DEFRA supports home working and is taking steps to ensure that the necessary tools and technologies are in place to facilitate this as part of its overall policy on flexible working. Home working can include the occasional day or days taken to complete a specific task or address a particular situation and is available to all staff subject to business needs. Alternatively it can be a permanent arrangement with regular home working days appropriate to the individual's situation.

Managers and individuals are encouraged to think creatively about working patterns so that efficient working can most easily be combined with other responsibilities and with employee's interests, responsibilities and personal circumstances.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188801]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables set out the minima and maxima for all of DEFRA's civil servants:

Non-SCS pay ranges 1 July 2007

£

Pay Range	*Eg Grade*	*Maxima*	*Minima*
London			
A	AA	19,141	17,158
B	AO	22,646	20,274
C	EO	28,846	24,439
D	HEO	33,986	28,901
E	FS	33,320	26,574
F	SEO	41,232	33,728
G	VO	54,744	43,611
H	G7	54,744	45,167
J	G6	66,506	54,876
National			
A	AA	15749	14083
B	AO	19262	17264
C	EO	25710	21892
D	HEO	30268	25797
E	FS	29929	23895
F	SEO	38078	31344
G	VO	50343	40160
H	G7	50343	41583
J	G6	62078	51288

SCS pay ranges 1 April 2007

£

Pay band	*Minimum*	*Recruitment and performance ceiling (RPC)*
1	56,100	116,000
1A	65,280	127,000
2	81,600	160,000
3	99,960	205,000

This information covers people in core-DEFRA and the following DEFRA executive agencies:

Animal Health;

Pesticides Safety Directorate;

Veterinary Medicines Directorate;

Marine Fisheries Agency;

Government Decontamination Service.

It does not include DEFRA's agencies that have taken pay delegation (Central Science Laboratory, Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Rural Payments Agency and Veterinary Laboratories Agency).

For the senior civil service (SCS), Departments and agencies are responsible for their own reward arrangements within a framework and pay range values set by Cabinet Office. For non-SCS, Departments have delegated authority to tailor reward packages and pay range values to meet their own business needs.

Departmental Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how frequently the residual waste bins of each of his Department's buildings are collected. [192181]

Jonathan Shaw: The following arrangements exist in the 3 main areas; London Estate, York and Alnwick.

London

Waste is collected from the floors of each building each evening.

There is also a daily janitor service who will collect waste on request.

The waste then goes to the collection points at each building (in the basements) of Whitehall Place, Eastbury, Page Street and Millbank.

The waste is collected from these points daily with general waste being collected in the morning and paper and drink vessels collected in the afternoon.

Ink cartridges are collected daily from the floors and weekly from the collection points. Batteries and DVD are collected from the collection tubes in the reception and placed in the collection points in the basement area and collected on request.

York

Waste is collected from all floors each evening by the evening cleaning staff and on request through the day via the janitor.

The waste from the floors goes to three collection points at Kings Pool split into general waste, paper, cardboard and other recyclable waste.

The waste is collected from these three points: general waste on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Paper, cardboard and other recycled waste every Monday.

Toner cartridges and batteries are collected from each floor as and when they are left for collection. Plastics, cans and glass are collected from the Beverage Bays daily and placed in the collection point in the undercroft car park and collected by a local recycling supplier once a week.

Alnwick

Waste is collected from each floor each evening by the evening cleaning team.

The waste goes to a collection point at Lion House.

The waste is then collected each Friday.

Toner cartridges and batteries are collected from each floor as and when they are left for collection. Paper, plastic and cans are collected from the recycling bins as and when they are full and on request and taken direct to the local recycling centre.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice the Local Authority Support Direct Consultancy Service has given to waste collection authorities on household rubbish collections. [192174]

Joan Ruddock: 67 waste projects have been resourced by the DEFRA, Waste Implementation Programme, Direct Consultancy Support for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years, involving 327 local authorities. The projects were broken down into the following categories:

Waste composition: 22 projects involving 116 local authorities.

Waste strategies: 27 projects involving 105 local authorities.

Waste procurement: nine projects involving 61 local authorities.

Waste planning: nine projects involving 45 local authorities.

The focus for 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years was to assist local authorities in their decision-making process in planning, strategy, procurement, and waste composition analysis. Applications for the final year of Direct Consultancy Support for the financial year 2007-08 closed in October 2006.

In 2005-06, 120 Direct Consultancy Support projects were resourced involving 316 authorities. In total 372 (94.4 per cent.) of the 394 local authorities in England received Direct Consultancy Support in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, what means local authorities will use to recover debts arising from non-payment of charges of the collection of household waste. [192187]

Joan Ruddock: As I said in my reply to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W, it is envisaged that local authorities would be able to recover any money owed by residents through the courts as a civil debt.

The Government have also tabled an amendment to the waste provisions in the Climate Change Bill. This would allow the Secretary of State to make regulations enabling authorities to recover more efficiently any charges owed.

Fisheries: Enforcement

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce the arrangements for aerial surveillance coverage for fisheries protection and enforcement that will be put in place after the contract with Directflight expires in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [190465]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency is responsible for aerial surveillance coverage for fisheries protection and enforcement. The agency anticipate making a decision in the next six months on the future arrangements for aerial surveillance after the present contract with Directflight expires in March 2009.

Food: Salt

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility his Department has for Government policy on levels of salt content in food. [190214]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2855W.

Horses: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to make it easier to export live horses to other parts of the EU. [192254]

Jonathan Shaw: The EU Welfare in Transport Regulation 1/2005 came into effect on 5 January 2007 and is to be reviewed in 2009.

The Government are committed to protecting the welfare of horses and other animals during transport including export journeys.

If the hon. Member would like to write to me with further details of his concerns, I will address them.

Inland Waterways: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what internal drainage boards are operating in the east of England; and if he will make a statement. [192475]

Mr. Woolas: Internal drainage boards (IDBs) are independent statutory bodies responsible for land drainage in areas of special drainage need that extends to 1.2 million hectares of lowland England. They are long established bodies operating predominantly under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and have permissive powers to undertake work to secure drainage and water level management of their districts. They may also undertake flood defence works on ordinary watercourses within their districts (i.e. watercourses other than 'main river').

There are currently 83 IDBs within the Environment Agency Anglian region. These are:

Alconbury and Ellington IDB
Alderton, Hollesey and Bawdsey IDB
Ancholme IDB
Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB
Benwick IDB
Black Sluice IDB
Bluntisham IDB
Broads IDB
Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB
Burnt Fen IDB
Cawdle Fen IDB
Churchfield and Plawfield IDB
Conington and Holme IDB
Curf and Wimblington Combined IDB
Downham and Stow Bardolph IDB
Drysides DB
East Marling IDB
East of the Ouse, Polver and Nar IDB
Euximoor IDB
Feldale IDB
Fromus, Aide and Thorpeness IDB
Haddenham Level DC
Holmewood and District DB
Hundred Foot Washes IDB
Hundred of Wisbech IDB
Kings Lynn IDB
Ladus DDC
Lakenheath IDB
Lindsey Marsh DB
Littleport and Downham IDB
Lower Aide IDB
Manea and Welney DDC
March and Whittlesey IDB
March East IDB
March Fifth DDC
March Sixth DDC
March Third DDC
Middle Fen and Mere IDB
Middle Level Commissioners
Mildenhall IDB
Minsmere IDB
Needham Burial and Birdbeck DB
Nene Washlands Commissioners
Nightlayers IDB
Nordelph IDB
Norfolk Rivers IDB
North East Lindsey DB
North Level District IDB
Northwold IDB
Old West IDB
Over and Willingham IDB
Padnal and Waterden IDB
Ramsey First IDB
Ramsey Fourth IDB
Ramsey IDB
Ramsey, Upwood and Great Raveley IDB
Ransonmoor DDC
River Blyth IDB
River Deben IDB
River Gipping IDB
Sawtry IDB
Scotter IDB
South Holland IDB
Southery and District IDB
Stoke Ferry IDB
Stringside IDB
Sutton and Mepal IDB
Swaffham IDB
Swavesey IDB
Upper Aide IDB
Upper Witham IDB
Upwell IDB
Waldersey IDB
Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB
Waterbeach Level IDB
Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDB

Welland and Deepings IDB
White Fen DDC
Whittlesey IDB
Witham First District IDB
Witham Fourth District IDB
Witham Third District IDB
Woodwalton DC.

International Environmental Transformation Fund: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department is planning to provide for the International Environmental Transformation Fund in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [193354]

Mr. Woolas: The UK's £800 million International Environmental Transformation Fund, announced in the 2007 budget, is for reducing poverty through environmental protection and helping developing countries respond to climate change.

The International Environmental Transformation Fund has been divided equally between the Department for International Development and DEFRA. The DEFRA allocation is £50 million in 2008-09, £100 million in 2009-10 and £250 million in 2010-11.

Paper: Recycling

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage UK businesses to use recycled paper when sending out unsolicited mail. [191376]

Joan Ruddock: The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) Recycled Paper Advocacy Team has carried out work to increase demand for recycled paper, which will help encourage all companies, including those which send unsolicited mail, to move towards using recovered paper.

The Government also have a voluntary agreement with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) on direct mail under which they have agreed to maximise the use of recycled material. The DMA also agreed to raise recycling of direct mail to 30 per cent. by the end of 2005, 55 per cent. by the end of 2009, and 70 per cent. by the end of 2013. The DMA is currently working with BSI British Standards to develop an environmental standard for direct marketing. This is likely to include specific requirements in relation to the use of recycled paper.

Pollution Control: Noise

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps may be taken by local authorities to deal with noise pollution. [192548]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of key statutory duties are placed upon every local authority in England and Wales by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended:

> (i) the duty to inspect its area from time to time to detect any statutory nuisances which ought to be dealt with;
>
> (ii) the duty to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to investigate a complaint of a statutory nuisance made by a person living in its area;
>
> (iii) the duty to serve an abatement notice where the local authority is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists or is likely or occur or recur within the area of the authority.

Night noise (11 pm to 7 am) from dwellings and licensed premises can be addressed under the Noise Act 1996, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The night noise offence for licensed premises was introduced by section 84 and Schedule 1 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which came into force in England on 1 October 2006. We have revised the directions for permitted noise levels and an approval for devices measuring noise levels, which came into force on the 28 February 2008.

Offenders who exceed the "permitted level" for night time noise as measured from within a complainant's dwelling can be issued with a fixed penalty notice under the Noise Act 1996. Alternatively, the local authority can prosecute under the Noise Act 1996 or consider issuing an abatement order under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which also allows for immediate confiscation of equipment responsible for the noise.

The new permitted level is 34 dB(A) where the underlying level does not exceed 24 dB(A), or 10 dB(A) above the underlying level where this exceeds 24 dB(A). This permitted level applies to both domestic and licensed premises.

The Environmental Noise Directive applies to environmental noise from sources including agglomerations and major airports, roads and rail. The Directive requires member states to produce strategic noise maps and action plans to manage and reduce noise from these sources where necessary. English local authorities will be encouraged to participate in the process of drawing up action plans for agglomerations. Where action plans identify a local authority as responsible for a particular action, the authority is required to treat the action plans as its policy insofar as it relates to that action.

Vegetarianism

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of vegetarians living in England. [191286]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not hold the information requested and has no intention of doing so.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Accidents: Heating

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths have occurred because of malfunctioning thermostats in homes in each of the last 10 years. [187823]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 February 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Department stopped collecting accident statistics in the home in 2002. However, data on accidents in the home place prior to 2002 can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

Community Centres: Rural Areas

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department gives to rural communities for the maintenance and improvement of village halls and community centres. [189349]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 873W.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to consider how recommendation 49 in Our Shared Future should be implemented. [190155]

Mr. Dhanda: We have yet to consider how this recommendation can be taken forward. However regional development agencies (RDAs), along with the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, the Skills for Business Network and a range of other stakeholders, are members of regional skills partnerships which are the vehicles for delivering the Government's strategy for skills in each English region. All partners have an existing duty to comply with equalities legislation and have developed robust procedures for monitoring and evaluating policy for their impact on individual groups.

Compost: Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 227W, on compost: non-domestic rates, when the existing policy on valuing rateable composting facilities was introduced. [192320]

John Healey: Whether facilities or property is rateable or not for the purpose of non-domestic rates depends on the facts of the case and the relevant rating legislation. It falls to the Valuation Officer to determine the rateability— there is no specific policy case by case. The relevant section of the Valuation Office rating manual clarifying guidance on the valuation of non-exempt composting properties was published on 6 September 2007.

Council Tax: Coastal Areas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on levels of council tax of the national concessionary bus fares scheme in seaside unitary authorities. [193044]

John Healey: The level of council tax is a matter for individual authorities. We expect the average council tax increase in England to be substantially below 5 per cent. We will not hesitate to use our capping powers as necessary to protect council tax payers from excessive increases.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191493]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

The Department published our "Value for Money Delivery Agreement" in January this year and this sets out how Communities and Local Government will achieve its target of at least £887 million VFM gains by March 2011.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many written questions to her Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193388]

Mr. Dhanda: In the period 6 November 2007 to 25 February 2008, Communities and Local Government received 1,891 written parliamentary questions, including 295 for answer on a named day. A breakdown in the form requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a decision to move to fortnightly rubbish collections of household rubbish from weekly collections is a matter for the executive or the full council of a local authority in a local authority with a cabinet executive structure. [189535]

John Healey: Where a local authority operates executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000, all functions are the responsibility of the executive unless specified otherwise in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The collection of household rubbish is not a matter which is specified in the regulations and therefore it is the responsibility of the executive, to the extent that the decision is within the authority's budget. Decisions to adopt or revise the budget are, under the regulations, matters for the full council.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of funding for which the Government has applied to the EU for emergency flood relief; whether the funding is additional to funding already allocated by the Government for this purpose; whether the EU funding will be spent on *(a)* recovery and *(b)* future flood prevention; and if she will make a statement. [192790]

John Healey: In August 2007 the UK Government applied for funding from the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist with recovery from the floods of 2007. On 10 December 2007, the EU announced that they were recommending that the UK receive €162.388 million, which will equate to around £110 million since the exchange rate is fixed to the time of application. This recommendation was approved by the Budgetary Committee on 28 February 2008. We are currently working alongside the European Commission to draft the implementation agreement which will allow the money to be paid to the UK, and we expect to receive the money in spring.

The nature of the EUSF is that it is to reimburse emergency operations undertaken by public bodies, we have yet to make detailed decisions on how this money is to be spent.

The regulations that govern the EUSF are clear that the fund may only be spent on recovery from a disaster, and not on measures to prevent future disasters. We can therefore not use the EUSF to fund future flood prevention measures or on other improvement measures. Government have already announced that they will be investing over £2.15 billion on flood and coastal erosion risk management during the next three years.

Floods: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure local authorities comply with Planning Policy Statement 25 in respect of the building of residential homes in high flood risk areas; and if she will make a statement. [192836]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the publication of Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk" (PPS25) in December 2006, we have held several rounds of workshops around England with local authorities and other key stakeholders and made presentations at relevant conferences, to explain the principles involved and how to apply them. We are planning a further round of workshops after we have published the final version of the Practice Guide to PPS25.

If local authorities are minded to approve planning applications for major residential development in flood risk areas against the advice of the Environment Agency, the 2007 flooding Direction (The Town and Country Planning (Flooding) (England) Direction 2007) allows the Secretary of State to check the compliance of the applications with PPS25 and consider calling them in for decision.

We also work closely with the Environment Agency to monitor the performance of local planning authorities in taking Environment Agency flood risk advice into account at the planning application stage.

Housing: Elderly

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on preparations for the national strategy for housing in an ageing society. [190231]

Mr. Iain Wright: The development of the Strategy, "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society" published on 25 February, involved contributions from and discussions with different stakeholders and this included officials in the Welsh Assembly Government, who were visited in the earlier stages. Colleagues at the Welsh Assembly offered some important contributions to the development of this work, such as their pioneering work on rapid repairs and adaptations. My noble Friend Baroness Andrews also wrote to Jane Davidson, Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing at the Welsh Assembly Government in January before publication regarding the strategy and I recently met Jocelyn Davies, Deputy Minister for Housing at the Welsh Assembly to discuss housing matters. We hope to continue this productive relationship.

Housing: Finance

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to the district of Easington under the Decent Homes funding proposal on the basis that East Durham Homes *(a)* achieves and *(b)* does not achieve a two-star rating for each of the next six years. [192573]

Mr. Iain Wright: A funding total of £116 million has been made available to the district of Easington for capital investment to deliver decent homes. The first annual allocation would be made when the ALMO East Durham Homes (EDH) achieves two stars at an Audit Commission inspection.

We have made available £45,000 in 2007-08 to district of Easington and EDH to help facilitate the required service performance improvements to enable the ALMO to be successful at inspection. If EDH does not receive a two star rating at the next inspection, no annual funding allocations would be made. The Department would need to review the ability of EDH to deliver the service performance improvements required, and hence a Decent Homes investment programme.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what adjustment to funding from her Department to the district of Easington under the Decent Homes funding proposal between 2009 and 2014 there will be to take account of inflation *(a)* since the original arm's length management organisation submission was made by East Durham Homes in 2004 and *(b)* in each year between 2009 and 2014. [192575]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not intend to make any adjustment for inflation to the Decent Homes funding available to the district of Easington.

Housing: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to improve housing in Morecambe. [192549]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regeneration in Morecambe is currently targeting the West End where a sustained period of redevelopment will increase owner occupation, reduce the rented sector, provide a more balanced community, improve physical environment and maximize the opportunity for local job creation.

A masterplan has been developed for the West End (Winning Back Morecambe's West End); key partners include the city council, English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and North West Development Agency. Its core objectives include to change the tenure mix in the area and to create more family accommodation.

The Housing Corporation is working positively with Lancaster city council and English Partnerships to deliver the strategy for Morecambe. Most recently they met Lancaster councillors to discuss a longer term the needs of Morecambe and an integrated strategy.

Future housing development in Morecambe will be determined through public consultation on the Lancaster District Core Strategy, which proposes the continuing regeneration of the town.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authority areas she expects all social housing to have been brought up to the decent homes standards by 2010; which local authorities are not on target to meet the standard by 2010; what estimate she has made of the additional spending required above current spending plans to enable all local authorities to reach the standard by 2010; and what steps her Department is taking to help local authorities to improve all non-decent social housing. [186844]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table providing details of local authority delivery dates for decent homes has been placed in the Library of the House.

Local authorities delivering beyond 2010-11 are those who have included major regeneration programmes in their plans which take time to complete, where they have taken time to find an agreed way forward or put plans in place and where the scale of their delivery programme is such that it needs to extend beyond 2010-11.

By 2010 we expect over £40 billion will have been spent on delivering decent homes across all social landlords.

We have not made any estimate of the increased cost to the public purse of requiring all local authorities to effectively bring forward works to meet the decent homes standard by 2010 where they have programmes that extend beyond this date.

Government offices will continue to work with those few local authorities who have not finalised their delivery options.

Where delivery is through an arm's length management organisation (ALMO) additional capital funding is dependent on the ALMO receiving a 2 star Audit Commission inspection report on its housing management services. The Department is prepared to consider providing some financial support to local authorities where that has not been achieved to help facilitate the required service performance improvements.

Housing: Regional Planning and Development

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department plans to take of the core principles of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.14 in the development of its strategy for housing in the region. [191033]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has appointed an independent panel to consider the West Midlands regional spatial strategy (RSS) phase 2 revision which sets out planned levels of housing development for the West Midlands. The panel will need to consider and test the proposals set out in the revised draft submission as prepared by the regional planning body as well as any additional evidence relating to this at the examination in public of the RSS phase 2 revision.

My noble Friend Baroness Andrews has requested the Government office for the West Midlands to commission work to look at housing options which could deliver higher housing numbers than those set out in the phase 2 revision. This additional work will be evidence to be considered by the panel at the examination in public alongside the draft RSS submission document.

In asking for this additional work to be undertaken, my noble Friend Baroness Andrews was clear in her letter to the West Midlands regional assembly that she does not wish to fundamentally question the spatial strategy for the region in advance of the public examination. However, she is also concerned that the very rigid applications of some of the principles of the spatial strategy may be unnecessarily constraining longer-term development with implications on affordability of housing. This will also be an issue for the panel to consider.

At this stage, it is inappropriate for the Secretary of State to comment on emerging proposals for housing development and the evidence underpinning these in advance of the examination in public as these matters need to be independently tested. Furthermore, as the Secretary of State has a statutory role in the issuing of the final RSS, any comments at this stage on the merits of emerging proposals could prejudice her future decision-making role.

Land: Prices

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost of a hectare of land which had been approved for development was in each local authority in each year between 1997 and 2007; and if she will make a statement. [193003]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government publish data on the average valuation of a hectare of land which has been approved for development at the regional level based on data from the Valuation Office Agency at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141389

Local Authorities: Public Libraries

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities cited efficiencies related to changes in public library provision in submissions of *(a)* forward and *(b)* backward look annual efficiency statements to her Department in each year since their inception. [192404]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities report their efficiency gains to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) through annual efficiency statements, which are published on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/deliveringefficiency

Guidance to councils on the completion of annual efficiency statements is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/measuringreporting

Local authorities report efficiencies across the culture and sport sectors for which they are responsible; they are not obliged to complete the statements specifically identifying efficiencies in the public library sector and therefore we are unable to provide accurate data for this sector alone.

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what each local authority's *(a)* target according to the funding formula and *(b)* actual funding allocation following the application of the dampening mechanism was in each year since 1997; and what the real term change in funding was in each year. [193421]

John Healey: Tables showing the formula grant before floor damping, the formula grant after floor damping, and the real-terms change year-on-year on a like-for-like basis, i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function, for 2001-02 for authorities with responsibility for education and social services and for each year since 2002-03 for all authorities have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula police grant, SSA reduction grant (SSA Review), SSA reduction grant (Police Funding Review) and central support protection grant, where appropriate.

Floor damping was introduced in 2001-02 for authorities with responsibility for education and social services. In the following year floor damping was introduced for all authorities. Floor damping is an integral part of the formula grant system—the amount of formula grant before floor damping is not a funding target, it is simply a step in the calculation of the amount of formula grant that an authority receives.

The GDP deflator has been used to adjust the previous year's adjusted formula grant in order to calculate the real-terms increase in formula grant. The adjusted formula grant is a notional figure that is only used to ensure that we compare formula grant for damping purposes on a like-for-like basis (i.e. that we are comparing against the amount of grant the authority would have received had the same services been supported through formula grant as in the current year).

Local Government Finance: Ethnic Groups

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of trends in funding for black and minority ethnic organisations by local authorities. [191998]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications of the review by Darra Singh of her Department's consultation on community cohesion on funding for black and minority ethnic organisations by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [191999]

Mr. Dhanda: "Our Shared Future", the report of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, chaired by Darra Singh, was published in June 2007. The report included a number of recommendations including some on funding issues, in particular that Government produce guidance on 'single group funding'. The Government's full response to the Commission's report was published on 4 February and alongside it we also launched a consultation on cohesion guidance for funders, in line with the Compact Code of Practice governing relations between Government and the third sector. The consultation paper committed to producing a full equality impact assessment, drawing on consultation responses, once the consultation process has concluded. The consultation ends on 26 May 2008.

Local Government Finance: North East Lincolnshire Council

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much North East Lincolnshire Council collected in council tax in each year since 1997; and how much it received in *(a)* special, *(b)* liveability, *(c)* working neighbourhood and *(d)* neighbourhood renewal grants in each such year. [192094]

John Healey: Data on the council tax requirement and specific grants within aggregate external finance (AEF) (including neighbourhood renewal fund) for North East Lincolnshire council are tabled as follows:

£ million

	Council tax requirement	Specific grants within AEF	Of which: neighbourhood renewal fund
1997-98	32.8	4.3	—
1998-99	34.7	5.1	—
1999-2000	36.2	8.7	—
2000-01	38.6	12.4	—
2001-02	40.8	19.7	0
2002-03	44.4	23.4	0
2003-04	48.8	38.1	0
2004-05	49.7	39.6	0
2005-06	52.8	36.2	0.1
2006-07	54.4	139.3	3.4

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Figures are as supplied by the local authority to Communities and Local Government.

The authority has not reported any joint liveability grant received over this period.

Working neighbourhoods fund (WNF) is a new grant replacing the existing neighbourhood renewal fund, payment of which commences from April 2008.

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

Special grants have been interpreted as specific grants within AEF which are defined here as those revenue grants paid for council's core services (e.g. dedicated schools grant (DSG) and standards fund).

The aforementioned grants exclude specific grants outside AEF, capital grants, funding for the local authority's housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where the authority is simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

The large change in specific grants within AEF from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is because local authorities now receive funding for schools through the DSG rather than as part of formula grant.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Planning: Casinos

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance she has issued on the development of casinos within town centres. [192402]

Mr. Iain Wright: National planning policy on the development of casinos within town centres is set out in 'Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres' (PPS6). PPS6 confirms that casinos are one of the main 'town centre uses' to which the policy applies.

PPS6 should be read alongside other relevant statements of national planning policy, in particular 'Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development', which is the Government's overarching planning policy, and 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport'.

Further planning guidance is given in the 'Casinos: Statement of National Policy' which was jointly issued by this Department and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in December 2004.

Regional Government: Brussels

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1343-44W, on regional government: Brussels, if she will place in the Library copies of the most recent set of audited accounts of each of the regional offices in Brussels. [192171]

John Healey: The offices in Brussels are facilities. They are not separate organisations. Their costs are borne by the regional partners who fund them, including the regional development agencies, regional arms of the Local Government Association and regional assemblies. These costs are included in the partner organisations' published accounts available on their websites. Those for the regional assemblies, for which my Department is responsible, were included in the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1343-44W.

Regional Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings she has had with each regional Minister in their capacity as such; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* subject of each of those meetings was. [191622]

Hazel Blears: Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings each regional Minister has had in their capacity as regional Minister; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* subject was of each of these meetings. [191764]

Hazel Blears: All regional Ministers have undertaken a variety of meetings and visits in their regions. They have met local authorities, regional bodies and other organisations and attended engagements including stakeholder events and visits to local projects and communities. To provide further details on meetings would incur disproportionate costs.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many visits each regional Minister has made in their capacity as such to *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* schools in their region; which (i) hospitals and (ii) schools each visited; and what the (A) date and (B) subject of each visit was. [191621]

Hazel Blears: Visits to hospitals and schools by regional Ministers (undertaken in this capacity) are set out as follows:

The Minister for the East

Hospital	Date	Subject of visit
Watford General Hospital	17 January 2008	Visit to Watford Health Campus

The Minister for the South West

School/hospital	*Date*	*Subject of visit*
Tewkesbury Hospital	25 July 2007	To discuss effect of flooding on the hospital

The Minister for the North West

School/hospital	*Date visited*	*Subject of visit*
Bolton Hospital	3 December 2007	Opening of Children's Ward and discussion of child dedicated A and E provision and improving performance to reduce health inequalities

The Minister for the North East

School/hospital	*Date*	*Subject of visit*
Freeman Hospital, Newcastle	8 August 2007	Tour of new building
Sir Charles Parsons School, Newcastle	21 September 2007	Visit after school was designated a science college

Other regional Ministers

The Ministers for the South East, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands and London have to date made no visits to schools or hospitals.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her response to the Examination in Public report on the South East Plan will be published. [192412]

Mr. Dhanda: At this stage Communities and Local Government is unable to commit to a precise publication date for the proposed changes given the complexity of the issues involved. As part of the process we are carrying out technical assessments aimed at demonstrating the level of consistency with the objectives of delivering sustainable development and assessing any impact on habitats protected by European legislation. Communities and Local Government hope to have completed this work in the next few months.

We also want to ensure that, when the proposed changes are published, sufficient time is available for a full 12-week public consultation to be undertaken, during which local authority and other committee cycles allow proper consideration. With this in mind the Secretary of State aims to publish the proposed changes before the summer recess.

Smoking: Public Places

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what each local authority in County Durham has spent on enforcing the ban on smoking in enclosed public places. [192850]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Stamp Duties: Tax Allowances

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will bring into force the provisions of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 enabling tenants who have exercised their right to collective enfranchisement to receive stamp duty relief on purchases of freehold, pursuant to section 74 of the Finance Act 2003. [192601]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sections 121-124 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (the 2002 Act) make a number of changes to the right of collective enfranchisement for tenants of flats under the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 (the 1993 Act). In particular, the changes would require collective enfranchisement to be carried out by an "RTE company" that is defined under new section 4A.

Section 74 of the Finance Act 2003 provides for stamp duty land tax (SDLT) relief for RTE companies exercising collective enfranchisement. The provision is designed to ensure that the members of the RTE company have to fund SDLT at a rate broadly appropriate to their own contribution to the purchase and do not suffer a higher rate of tax because they are acquiring the freehold under a collective arrangement.

Sections 121-124 of the 2002 Act have not yet been commenced because there appear to be a number of practical difficulties with the provisions which will need further investigation. As such, new section 4A has not been introduced and as a result tenants exercising their right of collective enfranchisement do not yet benefit from the SDLT relief provided for in section 74 of the Finance Act 2003, although this remains the intention once the practical difficulties have been resolved.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Alcoholic Drinks

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce measures to assist investment and growth in the brewing industry; and if he will make a statement. [188942]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government encourage investment and growth through a range of measures including tax incentives, such as capital allowances and R&D tax credits, and business support schemes such as the Grant for Research and Development and Selective Finance for Investment. We have also introduced a range of measures through the Government Manufacturing Strategy, including the Manufacturing Advisory Service, which provides practical assistance to help companies in all sectors to improve their competitiveness. We have no plans to introduce specific measures for the brewing industry.

Biofuels

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the total annual consumption of *(a)* biodiesel and *(b)* bioethanol in England was in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement; [192941]

(2) what estimate he has made of potential levels of consumption of *(a)* biodiesel and *(b)* bioethanol in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [192944]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The figures for previous years are set out in table 1 as follows.

Millions of litres

	UK biodiesel consumption	*UK bioethanol consumption*
2003	19	0
2004	21	0
2005	33	85
2006	169	95
2007 (provisional)	347	153

Further details are available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.uktradeinfo.com. The Government do not keep data on the regional distribution of biofuel sales.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) is due to come into effect in April 2008. The levels of the RTFO are set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (SI 3072). It will be up to transport fuel suppliers to decide how to meet their obligations. Some, for example, may choose to supply more biodiesel than bioethanol, particularly in the early years of the obligation. The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) will be reporting regularly on these matters. The Government currently estimate that total biofuel consumption in the UK is likely to be in the region of 1.2 billion litres in 2008, 1.8 billion litres in 2009, and 2.5 billion litres in 2010.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the percentage of UK coal generation by tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted which will be sequestered through carbon capture and storage by 2015. [189701]

Malcolm Wicks: The only carbon capture and storage capacity expected to be operational by 2015 is the CCS demonstration project which is expected to commence operation by 2014 or shortly thereafter. This will sequester about 1.5 million tonnes per year.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) where the costs of the retrofit of carbon capture and storage technology to the proposed Kingsnorth power station will fall; [189918]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost of retrofitting the proposed Kingsnorth advanced supercritical power station with *(a)* carbon capture and storage technology, *(b)* integrated gasification combined cycle technologies and *(c)* other coal-based technologies. [189919]

Malcolm Wicks: The costs of fitting any carbon capture and storage technology would fall to the applicant.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Combined Heat and Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from *(a)* local stakeholders and *(b)* environmental non-governmental organisations as part of his consideration of the installation of plant and pipework in Medway to facilitate combined heat and power facilities in and around existing coal-fired power plants. [189694]

Malcolm Wicks: While the Department has received several representations on the use of combined heat and power at the proposed station at Kingsnorth, none refer to existing coal-fired stations.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has had from environmental non-governmental organisations on the use of combined heat and power at the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189708]

Malcolm Wicks: Numerous representations, including Natural England, the Environment Agency and Greenpeace, have been received on the use of combined heat and power.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Construction

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on mitigation measures designed to safeguard the presence of birds during the construction and operational phases of the proposed coal power station at Kingsnorth. [189679]

Malcolm Wicks: Representations have been received from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Kent Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Greater London Authority

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Greater London Authority on the merits of the proposed Kingsnorth coal-fired power station. [189920]

Malcolm Wicks: No such discussions have taken place nor can the Department discuss the merits of a particular application which is currently under consideration.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Industrial Waste

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has had from industries associated with pulverised fuel ash on any increased production of fuel ash resulting from the operation of new UK coal-fired power stations; [189682]

(2) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the creation of an environmental mitigation area during the construction and operational phases of any new coal-fired power station development in the UK; [189693]

(3) what representations he has had from the construction industry on changes to the rate of production of pulverised fuel ash resulting from the development of new UK coal-fired power stations. [189703]

Malcolm Wicks: No such representations have been received on the one coal-fired power station currently with the Secretary of State. Parties wishing to make such representations on any new coal-fired power station can do so when the application is submitted.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* technical and *(b)* financial provision required to secure a commitment from the applicant company that the proposed Kingsnorth coal-fired power station will be (i) carbon capture-ready and (ii) retrofitted with carbon capture and storage technology; [189878]

(2) what technical assessment he plans to make of the suitability of the infrastructure which E.ON has proposed for the carbon capture and storage retrofit at Kingsnorth; [189913]

(3) if he will require *(a)* E.ON to capture carbon at the proposed Kingsnorth power station and *(b)* the proposed Kingsnorth plant to be capture ready; [190598]

(4) what technical requirements for *(a)* preparation of flue gas for capture process, *(b)* capture of carbon post-combustion, *(d)* disposal of wastes from the process, *(d)* compression of carbon dioxide, *(e)* transport of carbon dioxide infrastructure and provision, *(f)* injection of carbon dioxide, *(g)* identification and provision of storage site and *(h)* monitoring of storage facility will form the basis of capture readiness of the proposed Kingsnorth power plant. [190599]

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the developer of the proposed Kingsnorth power station in Kent has applied for a licence to dispose of its carbon dioxide by carbon capture and storage; and whether grant of this licence is a prerequisite for approval of the proposal as a whole; [190161]

(2) whether a carbon storage site has been identified for the proposed Kingsnorth power station; and if he will make a statement; [190183]

(3) what obligations the developer of the proposed coal-fired power plant at Kingsnorth is under to provide carbon capture and storage technology at the plant; what the arrangements are for defraying the cost of such technology; and if he will make a statement. [190230]

Malcolm Wicks: Capture readiness is one of the issues the Secretary of State will consider as part of his decision on whether or not to grant consent to E.ON's application for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct a new coal-fired generating station at Kingsnorth.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timescale is of the conduct of the air quality assessment requested in relation to the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent. [190126]

Malcolm Wicks: An assessment of atmospheric emissions is contained in the Environmental Statement which accompanied the application.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had, and with whom, on the implementation of on-site archaeological work during the construction and operational phases of proposals for coal-fired power station development *(a)* at Kingsnorth in Kent and *(b)* in the UK. [190131]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is currently discussing suggested conditions to be included in any planning permission the Secretary of State may deem to be granted with Medway Council. These conditions will cover archaeological investigation and preservation.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on *(a)* vehicular circulation roadways, *(b)* traffic generation and its mitigation, *(c)* modifications to (i) Roper's Lane, (ii) Stoke Road, (iii) Four Elms roundabout and (iv) the A228 between Roper's Lane roundabout and Grain, *(d)* site access, *(e)* construction-related traffic and *(f)* loading, unloading and turning facilities for construction vehicles in relation to the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent, broken down by category of organisation; and if he will make a statement. [190134]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received representations from Medway council and has been made aware of the concerns of local residents and parish councils regarding traffic movements and upgrading of local roads to accommodate traffic associated with the proposed power station at Kingsnorth.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on *(a)* land and *(b)* waterway contamination relating to (i) potential construction and (ii) the operational phase of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent, broken down by category of organisation. [190184]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received representations on contaminated land from the Environment Agency.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on *(a)* the environmental impact, *(b)* the potential effect on (i) ringed plovers and other birds, (ii) water voles, (iii) reptiles, (iv) biodiversity and (iv) natural water temperatures and *(c)* the environmental management plan of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent, broken down by type of organisation; and what discussions he has had on such matters with Cabinet colleagues. [190185]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received representations from Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Kent Wildlife Trust on a wide range of issues relating to ecological and environmental issues. No discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the matters mentioned in the question have taken place.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans there are to *(a)* incorporate and *(b)* retro-fit carbon storage and capture technology in relation to the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; what the estimated cost to the public purse is of such plans; what discussions he has had, and with whom, on such plans; what representations he has received on this matter and from whom; and if he will make a statement. [190188]

Malcolm Wicks: No. Carbon capture readiness is one of the issues which the Secretary of State will take into account before deciding whether or not to grant consent to E.ON's application for his consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth.

The costs of including carbon capture plant would fall to the applicant.

Neither the Secretary of State nor Ministers have had discussions with any party about E.ON's proposal to construct a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. Any written representations will be taken into account before the Secretary of State takes his decision on the application.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the availability of carbon sinks in the UK suitable to store captured carbon dioxide from the proposed Kingsnorth power station; what representations he has received on this matter and from whom; and what estimate he has made of the likely costs of transporting carbon dioxide from Kingsnorth to the most likely site for storage. [190229]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have published two recent studies on the availability of carbon dioxide sinks generally. The first in 2006, was undertaken by the British Geological Survey and looked at sources and sinks for CO_2 . This concluded that the combined CO_2 storage potential in North Sea sinks should be sufficient to meet both UK and Norwegian needs for many decades. "Industrial Carbon Dioxide Emission and Carbon Dioxide Storage Potential in the UK" (Holloway, S., Vincent C.J. and Kirk, K.L) DTI Cleaner Fossil fuels programme report COAL R308, DTI Publications URN 06/2027: is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35684.pdf

The second, published in November 2007, under the auspices of the North Sea Basin Task Force, focused not just on the sinks, but also on the pipe work infrastructure needed to transport the CO_2 from its source to its storage site. It is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/carbon-abatement-tech/ccs/nsbtf/page42482.html

I have received no representations on this matter.

Estimates of costs for transporting carbon dioxide from Kingsnorth to any storage site would be a matter for the developer.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on regeneration projects and housing developments of the construction of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent. [190321]

Malcolm Wicks: No representations or assessment have been received or made.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the timescale is for *(a)* demolition, *(b)* site remediation and *(c)* decommissioning of surplus operational areas in relation to the existing power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; [190322]

(2) what representations he has received, and from whom, on the *(a)* demolition, *(b)* site remediation and *(c)* decommissioning of surplus operational areas in relation to the existing power station at Kingsnorth in Kent: [190323]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department will require the existing station to be decommissioned as soon as practicable after the new station is commissioned should the Secretary of State be minded to grant consent. Representations have been made by various organisations and individuals regarding remediation and these comments will be taken into account before any decision on the application is taken.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Government has made of the likely effects of air pollution arising from the proposed Kingsnorth power station on *(a)* the local population and *(b)* protected habitats and species. [189926]

Malcolm Wicks: An assessment of atmospheric emissions is contained in the Environmental Statement which accompanied the application. It will be for the Environment Agency to set limits which will ensure that the risk to health and flora and fauna is as low as is reasonably practicable.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of any change in storage needs for ash on the design and build process for the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189684]

Malcolm Wicks: No assessment has been made as no ash is to be stored on site.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Parking

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from *(a)* industry groups, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* environmental non-governmental organisations on the (i) layout and (ii) size of the parking area of the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth and its likely effect on local traffic patterns; and what discussions he has had on the matter with the Secretary of State for Transport. [189718]

Malcolm Wicks: No such representations have been received and no discussions on these matters have taken place with the Secretary of State for Transport.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Planning Permission

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what factors he will take into account in considering the application for consent for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; and what national policy considerations he considers relevant to the application. [189921]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State will take into account all matters, including national policy, that he considers relevant to his consideration of the application.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to which Government departments and agencies his Department has referred the application for consent for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; and what comments and advice have been sought in each case. [189922]

Malcolm Wicks: Listed as follows are the Government Departments and Agencies which the Department consulted:

Department for Transport
Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Energy Markets)
Civil Aviation Authority
Ministry of Defence
Environment Agency (Kent area office)
Natural England (Kent team)
Government office for the south-east (planning casework)
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Health and Safety Executive—Hazardous Installations Directorate (east and south-east regional office)

All comments and advice received will be taken into account before any decision on the application is taken.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Pollution

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has received from archaeological groups on investigations to determine the nature and extent of existing land or waterway contamination prior to the construction and operational phases of new coal power station development in the UK; [189630]

(2) what representations he has received from industry groups on investigations to determine the nature and extent of existing land or waterway contamination prior to the construction and operational phases of new coal power station development in the UK; [189638]

(3) what representations he has received from industry groups on the creation of environmental mitigation areas during the construction and operational phases of any new coal power station development; [189643]

(4) what representations he has received from *(a)* environmental non-governmental organisations and *(b)* industry groups on mitigation measures designed to safeguard the presence of birds during the construction and operational phases of any proposed new coal power stations; [189645]

(5) what representations he has received from *(a)* industry groups and *(b)* environmental non-governmental organisations on mitigation measures designed to safeguard the presence of reptiles during the construction and operational phases of coal-fired power station development in the UK. [189673]

Malcolm Wicks: It is for those who wish to make such representations on any new coal-fired power station to do so when an application is submitted.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Public Participation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what opportunities he plans to provide for public participation in the consenting process for the proposed Kingsnorth coal-fired power station. [189877]

Malcolm Wicks: The application and accompanying Environmental Statement were published in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990 No 455) and the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 200 (SI 2000 No 1927). The notices contained details of how anyone who wished to make representations could do so.

In addition, anyone who wishes to make representations is free to do so and any such representations will be taken into account before any decision on the application is taken. The Secretary of State will have to consider whether or not to use his discretion to call for a public inquiry to be held into the application.

Coal: Pollution Control

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has had from environmental non-governmental organisations on clean coal technologies. [189700]

Malcolm Wicks: Officials from my Department have regular discussions with representatives from environmental NGOs covering a range of energy policies, including clean coal technologies.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in the next financial year. [191017]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has recently undertaken energy audits across its estate. Projects identified to reduce carbon emissions include using lighting controls more effectively and piloting the use of LED technology. Staff are encouraged to use video conferencing and to consider how they travel to meetings. Bike loans are also available to staff and environmental awareness campaigns are regularly conducted.

Direct Mail: Unsolicited Goods and Services

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the volume of unsolicited commercial advertising mail received by UK citizens from companies registered outside the UK; and what steps he plans to take to reduce such mailings. [191375]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government consider direct-mail advertising to be a legitimate method for marketing goods and services and have no plans to prohibit such mailings within the UK.

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) runs schemes such as the Mailing Preference Service (MPS) that provide UK consumers with a choice to reduce the amount of unsolicited mail they receive, though the MPS does not cover mailings from overseas companies.

In 2007, the DMA received just over 500 complaints about unsolicited mailings from overseas companies. The majority of these complaints were in relation to perceived scams, which were referred to the Office of Fair Trading for investigation. In such cases, the OFT will investigate and where appropriate will have such mailings stopped.

Only 2 per cent. of these complaints were from consumers who had found that the MPS had not stopped an unsolicited approach from an overseas company. Such mailings are not covered by the MPS, as the company and product have no link with the UK. In such cases customers had found themselves on a mailing list as a result of past contact with the company, in which case they are advised to contact the respective company direct to ask for their details to be removed from the mailing list.

Electricity: Prices

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to prevent utility companies from doubling the charge for off-peak electricity used in night storage heaters. [191786]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including prices. Ofgem recently announced that it was launching an investigation into the operation of energy supply market. It will be open to Ofgem to decide whether additional regulatory action is required.

Energy: Coal

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the contribution of supercritical coal to the UK's projected 2015 energy mix. [189697]

Malcolm Wicks: On current projections we anticipate that between 2,000 and 3,000 MW of new supercritical coal capacity will be built by 2015. There are significant uncertainties in such estimates.

Energy: Complaints

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that the new complaint handling standard for gas and electricity consumers reflects the views of consumers outlined by Ofgem in "Consumers Views on Complaint Handling" published in November 2007 on the accuracy and transparency of information provided by suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [191332]

Mr. Thomas: The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 provides for Ofgem to set complaint handling standards for its regulated service providers. The report "Research on Consumers' Views on Complaint Handling" was commissioned by Ofgem specifically to feed into its decisions on prescribing complaint handling standards, as is made clear in the introduction to the report. Ofgem has also undertaken a public consultation on its proposals on this issue. It may be expected that these exercises will contribute to the formulation of the standards.

Fireworks: Noise

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will prohibit the use of noise category three fireworks. [191950]

Mr. Thomas: Category three fireworks are the only consumer fireworks that already have a maximum noise limit, set at 120 decibels.

As part of the implementation of the EU's Pyrotechnics Directive all consumer fireworks will eventually have maximum noise limits, these limits are currently under consideration by the European Standardisation body CEN.

Fireworks: Sales

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the Government has for future restrictions on the sale of fireworks; and if he will make a statement. [191877]

Mr. Thomas: We are currently considering how the implementation of the EU's Pyrotechnic Directive in the UK will interact with and require amendment of our national regulations on fireworks.

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to produce figures for levels of fuel poverty in London and London boroughs for *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007. [190524]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures for number of households in fuel poverty in London for 2004 and 2005 are already available. The figures for 2005 are available in table 29 of the publication "Fuel Poverty 2005: Detailed Tables" (http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf), an annex to the latest strategy report. The following table shows the situation for 2004 and 2005.

Estimated number of fuel poor households in London

	Number
2004	119,000
2005	120,000

Corresponding figures for 2006 will be published later this year, and those for 2007 will be published next year.

Sub-regional estimates of fuel poverty were most recently produced for 2003. In addition, fuel poverty features as an indicator within the new performance framework for local government. This requires local authorities to measure progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income-based benefits. Results of this new indicator are likely to be available for the first time late in 2008.

Internet: Surrey

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what percentage of homes have access to *(a)* dial up internet connection, *(b)* broadband and *(c)* high speed broadband in (i) the Tandridge District Council area and (ii) the Reigate and Banstead Borough Council area; [188076]

(2) what percentage of rural households in Surrey have access to *(a)* dial up internet connection, *(b)* broadband and *(c)* high speed broadband. [188077]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 February 2008]*: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy that all suppliers of liquid petroleum gas be regulated by the energy supply ombudsman. [190841]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The UK liquefied petroleum gas market (LPG) is not regulated by an energy supply ombudsman.

The Competition Commission (CC) recently carried out an investigation into the issues that could prevent, restrict, or distort competition for the supply of domestic bulk liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The conclusions were published in June 2006. The CC is now devising a package of remedies, on which it has consulted, and is looking to impose them through two orders on the industry. More information is available on the CC's website:

http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/current/gas/index.htm.

The OFT has been closely involved in this work as it has progressed. The CC plans to publish the orders in May and July 2008. The OFT will monitor the orders and follow up any alleged breaches of it with the suppliers concerned.

Mining: Compensation

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has recouped from solicitors following the recent court ruling on coal compensation schemes. [192469]

Malcolm Wicks: The total outstanding funds that the Department wanted to recoup for the optional risk offer scheme in respect of the respiratory disease compensation scheme was £80.6 million.

As at 3 March 2008, the Department has recovered a total of £62.7 million leaving £17.9 million outstanding.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which solicitors have not repaid the money they owe to the Government following the recent court ruling on coal compensation schemes. [192674]

Malcolm Wicks: The following list shows the claimants' representatives who have outstanding funds to repay the Department in excess of 100,000:

Claimants representatives

Beresfords
Avalon
UDM
Delta Legal
Ingrams
Hilary Meredith
Recompense Ltd.
Ashton Morton Slack LLP
Cordner Lewis
McConville O'Neill
Bailey Bravo Jobling
Birchall Blackburn
Simpson Millar
MLM
Kidd and Spoor Harper
MK Legal LLP

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budgeted operating cost for *(a)* the National Consumer Council, *(b)* Energywatch, *(c)* Postwatch and *(d)* Consumer Direct is for 2008-09. [185760]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

Budgeted operating cost:

The budgeted operating costs for the National Consumer Council, Energywatch and Postwatch have yet to be agreed. The Department expects to receive the provisional budgetary estimates for the respective organisations shortly that will need to be formally approved.

Consumer Direct is funded directly by the Office of Fair Trading. The budgeted operational costs for 2008-09 has yet to be agreed, but will be confirmed by 31 March. The Chief Executive of the Office of Fair Trading will write to the hon. Member when the final budget is agreed.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Foreign Workers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many foreign nationals have been employed by the *(a)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(b)* its sub-contractors since its establishment. [188861]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures provided by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) show that 12 foreign nationals have been employed since its establishment. The NDA does not hold information about the nationality of employees of its sub-contractors. However, all those working on NDA sites are subject to rigorous vetting procedures.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) vetting process follows "Cabinet Office Guidance on HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard—a Good Practice Guide to the Pre-Employment Screening of Government Staff and Contractors" and the "Cabinet Office Manual of Protective Security". OCNS has also reminded the civil nuclear industry of the need to be compliant with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

Offshore Drilling: Nature Conservation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he gives to risks to bottlenose dolphin populations when determining licences for oil and gas extraction. [191411]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2233W.

Opencast Mining: Health Hazards

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with UK Coal on funding research into the links between levels of asthma in children and the proximity of *(a)* residential areas and *(b)* schools to open cast mining areas. [190005]

Malcolm Wicks: Areas of research to be funded by UK Coal are a matter for the company and the Department has no proposals to raise the matter of research funding with them.

The Department is not aware of any current research which shows a scientific link between asthma and surface mine coal production.

Post Offices: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria will be used in deciding which post offices will be closed following the current review. [190498]

Mr. McFadden: After Post Office Ltd.'s network change programme, the network will comprise of around 11,500 offices and should be sustainable at this level from the combination of the current reduction of network size and the improved viability of remaining offices through migration of business, the company's wider savings in central overhead costs, the return of the Crown network to profitability and the Government's subsidy of up to £150 million a year to support the non-commercial part of the network.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proposals he is considering to make financial incentives available to local communities that agree to accept a repository for nuclear waste. [192248]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government recently consulted on the framework for implementing geological disposal for higher activity radioactive wastes as part of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme, and the availability of benefits for local (host) communities was part of that consultation.

The Government are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will publish a White Paper that sets out Government policy later this year.

The consultation document is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/radwaste-framework/index.htm

Regional Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the offices of the regional assemblies and their partners in Brussels are deemed public authorities for the purposes of the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* environmental information regulations. [192172]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The offices in Brussels are facilities used by the regional assemblies and their partners. They are not separate organisations for the purposes of either set of regulations.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on methods of overcoming intermittency in production of electricity from renewable energy sources. [191460]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have commissioned a limited amount of research on methods of overcoming intermittency in production of electricity from renewable energy sources. This is because of the wealth of information from respected organisations publicly available in this area.

The available evidence shows that there are no insurmountable technical barriers to accommodating intermittent generation and that the associated system balancing costs are relatively low at 20 per cent. penetration.

The Government commissioned a report on "Wind Power and the UK resources" from the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/publications/downloads/sinden05-dtiwindreport.pdf

Other useful reports are:

"An Assessment of the Evidence on the costs and impacts of intermittent generation on the British electricity network", produced by the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC)

http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/ResearchProgrammes/TechnologyandPolicyAssessment/TPAProjectIntermittency.aspx

"A shift to wind is not unfeasible", which appeared in "POWER" magazine

http://www.bwea.com/pdf/PowerUK-March2003-page17-25.pdf

We will need to review these issues as we develop our Renewable Energy Strategy. In the summer we will launch a full consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our share of the EU 2020 target.

Vocational Training

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research to assess the effects on skills and apprenticeships in England of apprenticeships and training policies implemented by the devolved administrations. [192267]

Bill Ramm[illegible] *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

We took account of evidence from other countries in formulating our proposals to expand and improve apprenticeships in England. Ministers need to consider parallel developments from time-to-time.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1874-75W, on abortion, what the terms of reference of the review will be; and if he will make a statement. [192613]

Dawn Primarolo: The terms of reference have not yet been finalised but all three reviews will include consideration of all relevant evidence, including all evidence submitted to the Science and Technology Committee and any new research in the area.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh of 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on hospital wards, which NHS trusts self-reported that they provided type 1 accident and emergency services in the latest period for which figures are available. [192375]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the 154 national health service trusts that self-reported having type 1 accident and emergency (A and E) services at the end of December 2007 has been placed in the Library.

There are some organisations that have more than one type 1 A & E service. The number of trusts that self-reported having type 1 A and E services does not therefore reflect the total number of A and E departments of which there were 203 (type 1) at the end of December 2007.

Adult Audiology Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold an independent review of the tendering procedure for adult audiology services. [191217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Decisions on the procurement of adult audiology services are made at a local level by individual trusts. There are no plans to hold an independent review of the tendering procedure for adult audiology services.

Ambulance Services: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of operating emergency ambulance services in Eastbourne constituency was in each year since 1997; [192120]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve emergency ambulance services in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency and *(b)* East Sussex. [192121]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on expenditure is not available in the format requested. Information prior to 2000-01 is not available. Information is held by ambulance trust rather than by constituency. The Eastbourne constituency is served by South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust which was formed in 2006. Prior to that, it was served by Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Information for these individual organisations from 2000-01 onwards has been set out in the following table.

Emergency patient transport services expenditure for Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust (2000-06) and for South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (2006-07)

NHS Trust		*Emergency patient transport services expenditure (£000)*
Sussex Ambulance Service	2000-01	20,721
Sussex Ambulance Service	2001-02	21,513
Sussex Ambulance Service	2002-03	23,870
Sussex Ambulance Service	2003-04	25,947
Sussex Ambulance Service	2004-05	30,215
Sussex Ambulance Service	2005-06	39,076
South East Coast Ambulance Service	2006-07	105,289

Source:
NHS Trust Financial Returns TFR6 2000-01 to 2006-07.

It is for strategic health authorities, as the local headquarters of the NHS, and primary care trusts (PCTs), as commissioners, to ensure that emergency ambulance services, including national response time standards are delivered and maintained by ambulance trusts. The hon. Member may wish to raise this issue directly with the chief executives of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust and East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT.

Babies: Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of babies born with a tranquilliser addiction have a permanent impairment as a consequence of their addiction; [190209]

(2) how many babies were born with an addiction to tranquillisers in each year from 1999 to 2006; [190273]

(3) what treatment the NHS provides to babies born with an addiction to tranquillisers. [190275]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Information is not collected centrally about the number of patients with a prescription drug addiction, nor is information available either about the number of individuals with a permanent impairment as a consequence of their addiction.

Blood Transfusions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1298W, on blood transfusions, what estimate his Department has made of the cost of implementation of prion filtration technology. [192655]

Dawn Primarolo: Our current estimate, based on information supplied by manufacturers and NHS blood and transplant, is that the cost per annum of introducing prion filtration for all United Kingdom blood donations is approximately £200,000,000.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone), of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1298W, on blood transfusions, when his Department expects to receive the results of the independent evaluation of the efficacy of the prion filter in reducing variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease infectivity in blood; and if he will make a statement. [192950]

Dawn Primarolo: The results from some evaluations are likely to be available in 2009, others will take several years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone), of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1298W, on blood transfusions, on what evidential basis his Department will reach estimates of the prevalence of preclinical variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or a carrier state in the donor population, and consequent estimates of infections prevented through filtration and the benefit of life years saved; when it expects to receive such evidence; and if he will make a statement. [192954]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department currently uses a variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (vCJD) sub-clinical prevalence estimate based on one study of tonsil and appendix samples which identified three affected samples out of 12,674 tested. This suggests a prevalence of about 1 in 4,000, though with very wide ranges of uncertainty and a statistical confidence interval of between 1 in 1,400 and 1 in 20,000.

The Department supports other studies to estimate prevalence and the Health Protection Agency is collecting 100,000 pairs of tonsils for vCJD testing. To date over 45,000 pairs of tonsils have been tested, none of which was positive.

No estimates have yet been made of the potential for infections to be prevented through the filtration of blood or of the benefit of life years saved.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1298W, on blood transfusions, if he will make it his policy that the precautionary principle in relation to blood transfusions take priority in decisions to implement prion filtration technology. [193239]

Dawn Primarolo: All decisions on the implementation of risk reduction measures will be based on impact assessments which will consider among other matters, evidence of efficacy, cost-effectiveness and the precautionary principle.

Blood Transfusions: Infectious Diseases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal cases where the plaintiff has been allegedly infected following a blood infusion have been brought against the NHS in each of the last five years for which information is available; in how many of those cases in each year the NHS made a payment in settlement; and how much was paid in settlements in each year. [190193]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: The following table shows claims against NHS Blood and Transplant for transfusion transmitted infection.

Date of claim	*Number of claims*[1]	*Number of settlements*	*Settlement total(£)*
2003	1	1	350,000
2004	0	—	—
2005	1	1	[1]25,000
2006	0	—	—
2007	3	Pending	To be assessed

[1] This is a provisional settlement. Hepatitis C claims are excluded as they are handled by the NHS Litigation Authority

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) has received a number of clinical negligence claims against the National Blood Service where the claimant has contracted an infectious disease from a blood transfusion. Information is provided in the following table, which includes settled and open claims:

NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*
2003-04	8	0
2004-05	3	0
2005-06	1	0
2006-07	3	0
2007-08 (to date)[1]	0	0

[1] Figures as at 31 January 2008

Breast Cancer

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of breast cancer there were in each year since 2001. [193066]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of breast cancer there have been nationally in each year since 2001. [193066]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of breast are for the year 2005. Figures for 2001-05 for England are given in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1] by sex, England, 2001-05

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Male	229	254	289	272	250
Female	35,315	35,149	37,283	36,939	38,212
Total	35,544	35,403	37,572	37,211	38,462

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the directors are of each cancer network sponsored by his Department. [192216]

Ann Keen: The lead manager of each cancer network is shown in the following table.

Cancer network	*Lead managers*
Lancashire and South Cumbria	Kath Nuttall
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	Toni Mathie
Merseyside and Cheshire	Pat Higgins
Yorkshire	Barry Tinkler
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	Julie Taylor-Clark, Catherine Arnott
North Trent	Kim Fell
Pan Birmingham	Karen Metcalf
Arden	Richard Hancox
Mid Trent	Peter Higgins
Derby/Burton	Teresa Shaw
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	Elspeth MacDonald
Mount Vernon	David Henson, Carol Hawes
West London	Fiona Bonas
North London	Chris Ward
North East London	Bob Park
South East London	Alastair Whitington, Nicola Robb
South West London	Charlotte Joll, Jo Champness, Karen Gaunt
Peninsula	David Chambers
Dorset	Denise Adcock, Lorraine Bailey
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	Mary Barnes
3 Counties	Nicola Strother-Smith, Kathy Gibbons
Thames Valley	Emma Richards
Central South Coast	Emma Richards
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	Ben Thomas
Sussex	Deborah Tomalin
Kent and Medway	Andrew Jackson
Anglia	Audrey Bradford
Greater Midlands	Tricia Lowe
Essex	Kevin McKenny
North of England	Moira Davison

Cancer Reform Strategy

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to test the model of community based prostate health clinics outlined in the Cancer Reform Strategy. [174254]

Ann Keen: The model was recommended by experts during the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy as a potential mechanism for delivering high quality, male friendly advice and support on prostate health issues.

The Department intends to test this approach as part of wider work on the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative and the National Cancer Equality Initiative.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects the Government's forthcoming cardiovascular screening programme, announced by the Prime Minister on 7 January 2008, to have an impact on *(a)* existing and *(b)* future Better Care, Better Value indicators. [188288]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk assessment programme. A departmental project is currently under way to assess the costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme. The Department will complete this as soon as possible, but it is too early to predict what impact, if any, this work may have on future "Better Care, Better Value" indicators.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts met their target for chlamydia screening of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [192029]

Dawn Primarolo: Chlamydia screening among 15 to 24-year-old men and women is included as a line in the national health service local delivery plans (LDPs), for the first time in 2007-08. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were asked to plan to screen 15 per cent. of the target population in 2007-08. No targets were set before this date.

It is too early to say which PCTs will meet this target; however, some areas such as Lewisham, Cornwall, Lambeth and Southwark are well on course to reach the target.

Chronically Sick: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions in North West Cambridgeshire. [192668]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Cambridgeshire PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained directly from Cambridgeshire PCT.

Chronically Sick: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving targets in the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in Chorley. [192425]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Central Lancashire PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Central Lancashire PCT.

Chronically Sick: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in Eastbourne. [192088]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" (the NSF). A copy of this document is available in the Library. The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of progress against its target of offering a care plan to every patient with a long-term condition by 2010. [188351]

Ann Keen: The Department plans to publish a framework describing best practice on personalised and integrated care planning in the spring of 2008. Methods for assessing progress towards the commitment to offer everyone with a long-term condition a care plan by 2010 are being considered as part of implementation of the framework.

Chronically Sick: Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in Norwich, North. [191922]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Norfolk PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained directly from Norfolk PCT.

Chronically Sick: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in Peterborough. [192128]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Peterborough PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Peterborough PCT.

Clinical Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 956W, on clinical negligence, how many of the claims were made in each year since 1995; and how much was paid out in each such year. [191419]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST) Oncology, Radiology and Radiotherapy claims by incident year

Incident year	*Oncology*	*Radiology*	*Radiotherapy*	*Total*
1995-96	31	48	6	85
1996-97	22	50	2	74
1997-98	26	45	5	76
1998-99	39	48	3	90
1999-2000	39	66	5	110
2000-01	52	69	6	127
2001-02	52	90	6	148
2002-03	38	85	5	128
2003-04	45	65	5	115
2004-05	33	73	6	112
2005-06	28	44	1	73
2006-07	8	21	4	33
2007-08	3	5	—	8
Total	416	709	54	1,179

Payments made on CNST claims by year of payment for Oncology, Radiology and Radiotherapy as at 31 December 2007

Year of payment	*Oncology*	*Radiology*	*Radiotherapy*	*Total*
1997-98	672	—	—	672
1998-99	643	167,886	—	168,529
1999-2000	55,604	480,306	—	535,910
2000-01	229,780	1,142,547	4,757	1,377,083
2001-02	1,471,607	3,863,968	302,409	5,637,984
2002-03	1,002,127	2,869,281	84,523	3,955,931
2003-04	2,191,940	4,390,858	301,966	6,884,764
2004-05	1,641,217	6,448,955	402,820	8,492,992
2005-06	2,842,012	2,535,430	28,724	5,406,167
2006-07	2,094,691	4,107,367	121,977	6,324,035
2007-08	2,333,723	5,382,266	651,621	8,367,610
Total	13,864,015.77	31,388,863.74	1,898,796.94	47,151,676

Notes:

1. Payments in year do not correlate to the claims made that year.
2. Payments for 2007-08 are for nine months up to 31 December 2007.

Dental Services

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of the population of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in (i) the East of England and (ii) Suffolk who were seen by an NHS dentist in each of the last five years. [191592]

Ann Keen: Under the contractual arrangements that were in place up to and including 31 March 2006, the number of patients registered with a national health service dentist was used as the measure of access to NHS dentistry. In April 2006, this measure was replaced by the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in a 24-month period. These measures are not directly comparable.

The number and percentage of the population registered with an NHS dentist in England is available as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 in Annex A and Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by children/adults, and by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This report was published by The Information Centre for health and social care on 23 August 2006, and is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-ctivity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number and percentage of the population seen by an NHS dentist is available in Tables C1 and C2 of Annex 3 of "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, and 30 September 2007.

The information is provided by children/adults, and by PCT and SHA. This report, published on 28 February 2008 by The Information Centre for health and social care, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-tatistics-for-england:-quarter-2:-30-september-2007

Dental Services: Greenwich

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists offering NHS services there are in Greenwich; how many there were in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [192713]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists, in England, on primary care trust (PCT) lists as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists on open NHS contracts, in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007, are available in Table El of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

The numbers of dentists quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for reporting dental workforce information since the introduction of the new contract on 1 April 2006 is currently under review. The review is to ensure that the figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce. The data provided will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete.

Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are awaiting registration with an NHS dentist in Greenwich; and if he will make a statement. [192714]

Ann Keen: The number of people awaiting registration with a national health service dentist is not collected centrally.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to register with an NHS dentist to receive NHS dental care.

Dental Services: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Torbay constituency were registered with NHS dentists in each year since 1997. [192261]

Ann Keen: The numbers of adults and children registered with a national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex C of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". The information is provided by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report was published on 23 August 2006 and is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration" is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of adults and children seen by an NHS dentist in England are available in Table Cl of Annex 3 of "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, and 30 September 2007. The information is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority. Information by constituency under the new contractual arrangements is not available.

This report, published on 28 February 2008, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england:-quarter-2:-30-september-2007

Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting times were for orthodontic treatment in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust area. [192577]

Ann Keen: Data are not centrally collected on waiting times for orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available on average hospital waiting times from referral to first out-patient appointment broken down by specialty up to and including the period ending September 2007-08. For information for the period ending September 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 510W.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191486]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the preparations for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR 2007), the Department undertook a zero based review of expenditure to identify value for money opportunities for 2008-09 to 2010-11. The CSR 2007 announced a commitment for the Department to deliver £8.2 billion value for money savings by 2010-11—I refer the hon. Member to the Annex pertaining to the Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227). The Department's plans to deliver these value for money opportunities were set out in the Department's "Value for Money Delivery Agreement", published in December 2007, and available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081547

Ear Nose and Throat: Surgery

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had NHS tracheostomy operations in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2004-05. [192462]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in precisely the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) relating to tracheostomies at national health service and private hospitals in England over the past three years.

	Year (of end of period of admitted patient care under one consultant)		
	2006-07	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Creation of tracheostomy[1]	10,800	10,418	9,884
Modification, closure, other types of tracheostomy operation[2]	4,615	4,431	3,992

Notes:

1. FCE: A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Number of operations-count of episodes: These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if a procedure is mentioned in more than one procedure field of the record.
3. Tracheostomy operations: HES uses the following codes to determine between what is known as the creation and a modification tracheostomy operation. [1]Creation of tracheostomy: E42.1 Permanent tracheostomy E42.2 Cricothyroidostomy E42.3 Temporary tracheostomy. [2]Modification, closure, or other types of operation on a tracheostomy: E42.4 Revision of tracheostomy E42.5 Closure of tracheostomy E42.6 Replacement of tracheostomy tube E42.7 Removal of tracheostomy tube E42.8 Other specified exteriorisation of trachea E42.9 Unspecified exteriorisation of trachea.
4. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Environmental Health: Catering

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of restaurants and other establishments serving food to the public were inspected by environmental health officers in each of the last five years. [192502]

Dawn Primarolo: Percentages of restaurants and other caterers which were subject to official control visits for food hygiene purposes are shown as follows.

Official control visits include full inspections, partial inspections, and examination of food safety management systems introduced by the food establishment. The frequency of planned official control visits depends on a range of factors including the risk rating of the food establishment for hygiene purposes, and ranges from six months to three years. As a result, not every establishment is due to be visited in any one year.

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of restaurants and other caterers	369,841	n/a	370,760	384,748	377,362	386,247
Number of such establishments subject to official controls	263,587	n/a	264,845	237,337	243,264	244,901
Percentage	71	n/a	71	62	64	63

n/a = Data not available

Food: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place to protect workers in the food industry from the effects of the food flavouring chemical diacetyl; and if he will make a statement; [190069]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of the food flavouring chemical diacetyl on workers in the food manufacturing industry; and if he will make a statement. [190070]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 applies. In particular, the Control of Substances

Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended) require duty holders to prevent, or if this is not reasonably practicable, to adequately control exposure to hazardous substances such as diacetyl.

No research has been commissioned by the Government or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). However, the Health and Safety Executive accepted the evidence from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the United States of America as the basis for alerting the food industry to the potential inhalation risks to workers from diacetyl in 2004.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of a food labelling system based on (i) recommended daily amounts of nutrients and (ii) a multiple traffic lights system; [186402]

(2) when his Department last undertook a review of the evidence relating to the effect of a food labelling system based on *(a)* recommended daily amounts of nutrients and *(b)* a multiple traffic lights system that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [186403]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has commissioned an independent evaluation of front of pack signpost labelling which takes account of existing United Kingdom and international published research on this area.

I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1208W and my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington, South (Helen Southworth) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1406W.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of GP consultations *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per GP in each year since 1997. [192424]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Estimated number of general practitioner consultations	*Consultation rates per GP*
1997	164,100,000	2.97
1998	162,100,000	2.90
1999	156,000,000	2.91
2000	156,300,000	2.92
2001	162,200,000	3.02
2002	161,900,000	3.05
2003	170,800,000	3.08
2004	171,200,000	3.18
2005	176,900,000	3.22
2006	181,600,000	3.25

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care/Q reserves: Trends in Consultations Rates in General Practice 1995-2006: Analysis of the QREC Database.

These data are also published at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/general-practice/trends-in-consultation-rates-in-general-practice-1995--2006

General Practitioners: Contracts

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will breakdown by primary care trust the cost to his Department of delivery of the new GP contract. [192028]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to directly compare total expenditure by individual PCTs on the new general practitioner contract arrangements across each of the financial years since the introduction of the new contract arrangements. In 2002-03, the year before increased investment to support the new GP contract started, spend on primary medical care services was reported on a strategic health authority basis for the first six months and then on a PCT basis for the last six months.

The first year for which we have comparable data to 2006-07 expenditure is 2004-05; however, this is the second year of increased investment in delivering the new GP contract and therefore does not provide the appropriate baseline year to measure expenditure by each PCT on the delivery of the new contract arrangements.

Additionally, in 2004-05 expenditure is reported by the then 303 PCTs that existed. From 1 April 2006 all expenditure relates to the reconfigured 152 PCTs.

General Practitioners: Travel

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the likely environmental effect of the change in the frequency of personal travel and car usage in rural areas resulting from the closure of GP surgeries on weekends. [191425]

Mr. Bradshaw: Due to the variation across rural and urban areas, assessment of the environmental impact of this measure would be best conducted at local level.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Labelling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1889W, on genetically modified organisms (GMOs): labelling, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that food imported into the UK which is not labelled as having been produced from authorised GMOs is not from animals which may have had genetically modified materials in their feed. [192374]

Dawn Primarolo: The labelling requirements for genetically modified (GM) food are set out in the directly applicable Regulations (EC) Nos. 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed) and 1830/2003 (Traceability and Labelling of GM Organisms). There is no requirement for food produced from animals fed on GM feed to be labelled as such, whether produced in the European Union or imported from a third country.

Health Professions: Age

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* consultants, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* midwives was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many from each group he expects to retire in the next 10 years. [192430]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the average age of general practitioners (GPs), consultants, nurses and midwives.

	Average age
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	46
Medical and dental consultants	47
Qualified nursing staff (excluding midwives)	44
Qualified midwives	42

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Under age discrimination legislation there is a default retirement age of 65, but many national health service organisations do not set a retirement age. Most NHS staff including GPs and consultants have a normal pension age of 60 but the average age at which this group take their pension on age grounds is nearly 63. Nurses and midwives who were members of the NHS pension scheme before 1995 have a normal pension age of 55 but an average retirement age on age grounds of 59.

Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas personal medical services plus pilots are situated; and if he will make a statement. [189568]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission primary care services that best meet the needs of their local population. Personal medical services plus pilots where developed not only to offer the full range of general practice services but also offer the opportunity of piloting the extended role of the general practitioner and deliver more traditional secondary care services in a community setting bringing services closer to patients. This could cover anything from extended minor surgery provision to extra skills such as endoscopy, ophthalmology and dermatology. Piloting ended in 2004 and these are now permanent arrangements that primary care trusts can enter into.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the consultation on proposals arising from the review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals will begin. [191816]

Dawn Primarolo: A review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals is currently under way and is expected to be completed shortly. It will then be submitted to Home Office and Department of Health Ministers. Recommendations to make any changes to existing arrangements will then be subject to public consultation.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* Southend Hospital and *(b)* South Essex Primary Care Trust for deep cleaning. [192808]

Ann Keen: All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). As set out in the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the findings are of the most recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence assessment of the drug Lucentis in the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. [192258]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising ranibizumab (Lucentis) for wet age-related macular degeneration. NICE issued draft guidance for consultation in December 2007. A copy of this consultation draft is available on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11700

NICE is currently considering the responses to that consultation and expects to publish final guidance later in 2008.

Maternity Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwife-led post-natal units there were in each of the last five years in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [171665]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health: Prescription Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on prescribed select serotonin re-uptake inhibitors in each of the last 20 years. [193294]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

	Estimated prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors in England	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
1987	40.0	898.8
1988	40.0	1,091.7
1989	106.2	3,410.2
1990	239.3	7,576.1

	Prescription items dispensed in the community in England (thousands)	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
1991	510.3	17,687.1
1992	1,178.1	43,329.0
1993	1,884.6	59,538.4
1994	2,681.2	76,686.0
1995	3,807.8	103,581.8
1996	5,136.0	142,250.0
1997	6,555.8	182,966.0
1998	7,581.6	211,277.5
1999	8,929.4	232,047.3
2000	10,442.5	213,323.6
2001	12,085.1	228,636.8
2002	13,304.0	244,515.9
2003	13,816.9	236,987.7
2004	14,312.0	224,650.8
2005	14,746.1	170,522.7
2006	16,227.1	119,663.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis system

Methadone

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescribing methadone was in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust. [191385]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the net ingredient cost of prescribing methadone for the calendar years 2004 to 2006, broken down by primary care trust, has been placed in the Library.

NHS

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what factors underlay his decision to announce in his oral statement of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 962, on NHS next step review, that there will be no further centrally-dictated, top-down restructuring to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities for the foreseeable future; [187850]

(2) with reference to his statement of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 962, on NHS next step review, what assessment he has made of the implementation of the review. [187851]

Ann Keen: The decision to make this announcement was based squarely on the view that configuration of services are a matter for the local national health service and there need be no such central restructuring for the foreseeable future. This remains the Government's policy.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what appeal procedures are available to patients who have been placed on the violent patients register; and if he will make a statement. [190664]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* There is no legislative procedure relating to the maintenance, or otherwise, of a violent patient register. Therefore, as there is no mandatory register there can be no specific legal right of appeal.

However, primary medical care contractors can immediately remove patients from their list on the grounds of violence if the patient has committed an act of violence or behaved in such a way that made someone fear for their safety, and the incident has been reported to the police. Where a patient is removed from a primary medical service contractor patient list, on these grounds, the contractor is required to note in the patient's medical records that they have been removed and the circumstances leading to their removal. A patient removed from the list of a primary medical services contractor has no right of appeal. Each primary care trust is required to have a scheme in place to ensure that where patients are removed from a practice's registered list for violent behaviour that such patients can still access a general practitioner so they can receive the care they need.

Nursing and Midwifery Council: Grievance Procedures

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) on dealing with internal grievances since 2005; when reporting of such spending to the NMC has occurred; and if he will make a statement; [191961]

(2) how much the Nursing and Midwifery Council has spent on *(a)* legal fees, *(b)* investigators' fees and *(c)* arrangements for meetings relating to complaints about the conduct of members of the council; and what estimate he has made of further such expenditure in relation to investigations which are under way; [191962]

(3) how many times the Nursing and Midwifery Council members have been required to sign confidentiality agreements since 1 December 2006; how many members signed each; and if he will make a statement; [191963]

(4) how many Nursing and Midwifery Council members are the subject of formal complaints; in how many of those cases efforts were made to resolve the complaints informally; and if he will make a statement. [191965]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not hold this information centrally. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is an independent regulatory body and as such is responsible for its own internal management practices.

The hon. Member can contact the chief executive of the NMC, at the following address:

Sarah Thewlis
Chief Executive
Nursing and Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London W1B 1PZ.

Nutrition: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plans to take to make the diets of children aged between one and four years old healthier. [192419]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government recently published a cross-Government strategy on obesity "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" and supporting healthy growth and development of children is one of the key elements of this strategy. A copy of the strategy is available in the Library. A £75 million, three-year marketing programme has been announced in this strategy, which will inform, support and empower parents in making changes to their children's diet and levels of physical activity. The programme will particularly focus on the early years including: maternal nutrition, encouraging breastfeeding and supporting healthy weaning and healthy diets in young children.

In addition, through the Healthy Start Scheme, the Department provides advice on healthy eating and vouchers to low-income families with children under the age of four years, that can be exchanged for milk, fresh fruit, vegetables or infant formula. A range of key publications are also made available to mothers which includes advice on healthy eating, breastfeeding, weaning and "Feeding your Toddler".

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of general practitioners using the choose and book service in *(a)* Torbay constituency and *(b)* England. [192266]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion of general practitioner (GP) practices using the choose and book system during January 2008 is *(a)* 95 per cent. in Torbay care trust and *(b)* 89 per cent. in England. Information on the use of choose and book by individual GP is not collected centrally.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the additional number of days on average an in-patient must stay in hospital if they are undernourished. [189474]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Patients: Waiting Lists

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average waiting time in days for *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient appointments in each year since 1994-95; and if he will make a statement. [192988]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables show the in-patient and out-patient mean and median waiting times in days since 1994-95.

In-patient mean and medians in days from 1994-95

The figures show that the in-patient median waiting time has fallen from 88 days in March 1995 to 33 days in January 2008, with a peak of 104 days in March 1998. The mean has shown a similar pattern and has fallen from 125 days to 42 days.

In-patient average waiting times

		Days
Month ending	*Median*	*Mean*
March 1995	88	125
March 1996	83	111
March 1997	92	127
March 1998	104	140
March 1999	90	130
March 2000	90	131
March 2001	88	127
March 2002	89	122
March 2003	83	109
March 2004	71	87
March 2005	60	74
March 2006	51	61
March 2007	43	52
January 2008	33	42

Note:
Figures are commissioner based and relate to numbers waiting as at 31 March (or at 31 January for the current figures).
Source:
QF01 and monthly monitoring returns.

Out-patient mean and medians in days from 1994-95

The figures show that the out-patient median waiting time has fallen from 41 days in March 1995 to 38 days in March 2007, with a peak of 52 days in March 2000. The mean has increased slightly from 64 days to 66 days, but has fallen from a peak of 78 days in March 2000. During this time, the maximum waiting time standard has fallen from 26 weeks to the current standard of 13 weeks.

Out-patient average waiting times

		Days
Year ending	*Median*	*Mean*
March 1995	41	64
March 1996	43	61
March 1997	43	60
March 1998	45	64
March 1999	48	70
March 2000	52	78
March 2001	52	76
March 2002	51	73
March 2003	50	61
March 2004	49	55
March 2005	49	53
March 2006	46	48
March 2007	38	66

Source:
QM08R return.

Figures are commissioner based except for periods prior to March 1998, which are provider based.

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of his Department's initiatives have a reduction in mortality rates from prostate cancer as a primary aim; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each such initiative; what the effect of such initiatives has been on prostate cancer mortality rates to date; what further effect on mortality rates he expects in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [192215]

Ann Keen: All Government policy on cancer aims to improve outcomes, reduce mortality, improve patient experience and reduce inequalities. We are on track to meet our public service agreement target to substantially reduce mortality rates by 2010 from cancer, by at least 20 per cent. in people under 75.

Regarding prostate cancer, the national health service prostate cancer programme was published in 2000 with a commitment to improve the early detection of prostate cancer; improve treatment and care for patients with prostate cancer; and to enhance research into prostate cancer in the United Kingdom. Specific initiatives have included the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme, reducing waiting times, raising public awareness, improving treatment, and improving information for prostate cancer patients. It is too early to evaluate the effects of these initiatives on prostate cancer mortality.

However, we recognise that there is more to do. That is why we published the "Cancer Reform Strategy" in December 2007 to show how we will deliver cancer outcomes which are among the best in the world.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 23 March 2007 to the hon. Member for Tyne Bridge (Mr. Clelland), *Official Report*, column 1202W, on prostate cancer, what decision-making aids were piloted by the Action on Urology programme between 2004 and 2005; in which areas the decision-making aids were piloted; and if he will make a statement. [192237]

Ann Keen: Decision-making aids for patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) (enlarged prostate) were piloted in the first phase of the Action on Urology informed decision making project between 2004 and 2005. They included videos/DVDs for patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer and BPH, booklets to accompany the videos/DVDs and decision quality assessment forms. In addition, specialist nurses were trained in shared decision-making. The first phase of the project piloted the use of these decision aids in four sites in England: Ipswich Hospital, Stockport Royal Infirmary, Colchester General Hospital and East Berkshire NHS Trust.

The project is currently in its second phase, developing the decision aids suitable for United Kingdom practices, which will eventually be web-based. In addition to the materials mentioned, they include personal decision forms and staff training materials. These materials are in development with the assistance of a further six pilot sites: Royal Marsden and Epsom General, The West Anglia Cancer Network (West Suffolk and Addenbrookes), Bradford, Plymouth, University College Hospital and Cardiff Hospital.

The roll-out of the programme is to be undertaken via the established cancer networks.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many participants have been recruited to the ProtecT study on prostate cancer; what funding has been committed by his Department to the ProtecT study; what the outcomes of the study have been to date; when the study is expected to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [192239]

Dawn Primarolo: The ProtecT trial is a National Institute for Health Research health technology assessment programme (HTA) project. To date, some 2,150 patients have been recruited to it. The Department has allocated £34.2 million to the trial, of which £18 million has been spent.

The project team have published over 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals and have made 32 conference presentations. The team continues to submit further outputs for publication.

Recruitment to the trial will end in May 2008 and the contracted research will end in 2014. A draft final report is due in 2014 with subsequent publication of a refereed report in the HTA journal series.

Further information about the project and its outputs can be found on the HTA website at:

www.ncchta.org/project/1230.asp

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct an audit of the quality of life of prostate cancer patients following treatment. [192645]

Ann Keen: "The Cancer Reform Strategy", published in December 2007, noted that as we place a new emphasis on the quality of experience reported by people with cancer, including prostate cancer, it will be important that we are able to measure progress, tracking improvements in the qualitative as well as quantitative aspects of cancer care. That is why the strategy stated that a new national health service cancer patient experience survey programme will be established and surveys conducted annually. To take this forward an expert group, including patients, will be convened to design the technical specifications. A national contract will then be let for the collection, management and analysis of cancer patient experience surveys. The development of the programme is in the early stages, and announcements will be made in due course.

In addition, the strategy noted that detailed consideration needs to be given to the services needed by survivors of cancer. The National Cancer Director will lead a new National Cancer Survivorship Initiative to take this forward in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and other cancer charities. The initiative will consider a range of approaches to survivorship care and how these can best be tailored to meet individual patients' needs.

Prostate Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on awareness of prostate cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [193337]

Ann Keen: Information on local expenditure on cancer awareness is not collected centrally.

Nationally, a pilot public awareness programme on the prostate, set in a primary care trust population, was completed in autumn 2006. Its impact on the local population and the effect it has had on local national health service services has been evaluated. A report based on the results of the pilot and the evaluation, including clear next steps, will be discussed shortly by the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group. The pilot was jointly funded by the Department and signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action. The Department provided £100,000 towards the pilot.

The Department has provided funding through the section 64 scheme for the following organisations to increase public awareness of prostate cancer:

in 2004 the Department provided £30,000 to the Men's Health Forum to help fund their publication, the "Men and Cancer Manual";

the Department provided £135,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to increase available information about prostate cancer; and

the Department is providing £105,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to improve awareness of the risks and symptoms of prostate cancer in African and Afro-Caribbean men in Britain.

In addition, the "Cancer Reform Strategy" set out that we will establish a new National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. Led by the National Cancer Director, this initiative will bring together the NHS, representatives of local authorities, the Department, the National Cancer Research Institute and the research community, cancer charities and patients to co-ordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has assessed randomised control trials on prostate cancer comparing active monitoring with radical treatment *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside the UK. [192646]

Ann Keen: The Department, through the National Institute for Health Research health technology assessment programme, is funding a major study—the ProtecT trial—that aims to evaluate the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and acceptability of treatments for men with localised prostate cancer. The study began in 2001 and is comparing three treatments (active monitoring, radical prostatectomy and radical radiotherapy).

The Department's Prostate Cancer Advisory Group will keep under review outputs from the trial, and any relevant evidence from similar, high quality studies undertaken elsewhere in the world.

Prostate Cancer: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treating prostate cancer in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [193339]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts to decide the level of funding they allocate locally for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients within their local population. Information on this funding is not collected centrally.

Nationally, data on national health service expenditure on cancer are not collected by cancer type. In 2006-07, £4.35 billion was spent by the NHS on cancer services, approximately 5.2 per cent. of all NHS spending for that year.

Prostate Cancer: Research

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government spent on prostate cancer research in each financial year since 1997-98; and how much of such expenditure was drawn from *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Medical Research Council's budget in each such year. [192218]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on prostate cancer research

£ million

	Department	*Medical Research Council*[1, 2]
1997-98	n/a	0.8
1998-99	n/a	1.0
1999-2000	0.4	1.1
2000-01	1.8	3.1
2001-02	2.4	1.9
2002-03	3.3	3.0
2003-04	4.6	3.6
2004-05	4.6	4.3
2005-06	[1]4.9	6.2
2006-07	[1]4.6	5.1

[1] These figures include total expenditure on some large studies of which only a proportion relates directly to prostate cancer.

[2] Expenditure on fellowships is not available for 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Note:

Includes some estimated spend figures.

The Department is additionally making a contribution of £6.4 million over eight years to meet the cost of the National Cancer Research Institute's centres of research excellence in prostate cancer (the Prostate Cancer Collaboratives).

The departmental figures relate to national research programmes. They do not include expenditure on prostate cancer research from the research and development allocations made over the period concerned to national health service organisations. That information is not held centrally.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will encourage the provision of information on the effects of prostate specific antigen testing to men who request such a test. [192644]

Ann Keen: The Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme (PCRMP) was introduced in 2002 to help general practitioners and practice nurses in advising men without symptoms of prostate cancer on the implications of having a prostate specific antigen

(PSA) test. This empowers men to make an informed choice on whether or not to have a test based on their own lifestyles and values. An evaluation of the PCRMP was funded by the Department to help inform the future direction of the programme and the PCRMP information pack is currently being reviewed. A consultation will be published in the spring, with the intention of launching the revised PCRMP packs in the summer of 2008. Full consideration will be given to ensuring primary care teams are aware of the revised PCRMP.

Smoking: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to smoking cessation services in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192361]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows funding allocated to the national health service stop smoking services from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Financial allocations to the national health service for stop smoking services

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	41
2004-05	46
2005-06	51
2006-07	56
2007-08	56

Smoking: Public Houses

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial impact of the ban on smoking in public places on public houses in England. [192611]

Dawn Primarolo: An assessment of the costs and benefits of smokefree legislation is set out in the final regulatory impact assessment (RIA) that was published by the Department in December 2006.

A copy of the RIA is in the Library.

Testicular Cancer

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's strategy is for raising the profile of testicular cancer; and if he will make a statement. [193069]

Ann Keen: The awareness of the early signs and symptoms of testicular cancer should be encouraged. Men should be aware of any unusual changes and consult doctors early in order to ensure the maximum chance of a cure. That is why we have collaborated with Cancer Research UK in the production of a testicular self-awareness leaflet, "Testicular Cancer: Spot The Symptoms Early" which is available at:

http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/images/publicationspdfs/leaflet_testicular.pdf

In addition, the "Cancer Reform Strategy" set out that we will establish a new National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. Led by the National Cancer Director, this initiative will bring together the national health service, representatives of local authorities, the Department, the National Cancer Research Institute and the research community, cancer charities and patients to coordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation.

Urological Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates his Department has conducted risk assessments of strategic health authorities' implementation action plans on the Improving Outcomes for Urological Cancers; what the outcome was of the most recent risk assessment undertaken in respect of each strategic health authority; and if he will make a statement. [192217]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1454-55W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Foreign Exchange

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency transactions over the value of £25,000 were made by his Department where pounds sterling were changed into local currency in *(a)* (i) Uganda, (ii) Ghana and (iii) Mozambique between 1 January and 30 June 2007 and *(b)* Ethiopia between 1 July and 31 December 2006. [192562]

Gillian Merron: Between 1 January and 30 June 2007 the following transactions above the value of £25,000 were made for Uganda, Ghana and Mozambique. Funds were received in the respective countries from the Department's headquarters in the UK and converted to local currency in-country. Transactions are made as and when local currency is needed for local expenditure. DFID does not pay commission on any of these transactions.

The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia makes no charge for overseas deposits into their sterling account, but levies a service charge of 0.0025 per cent. for converting sterling to Ethiopian birr and transferring to their local currency account.

Uganda

	Equivalent in £	*Exchange rate (£ to shs.)*	*Uganda shilling equivalent*	*Commission*
10 January 2007	154,507	3,475.57	537,000,000	0
19 February 2007	152,628	3,420.08	522,000,000	0
26 March 2007	101,760	3,400.16	346,000,000	0
4 April 2007	74,578	3,469.52	258,750,000	0
23 April 2007	149,604	3,419.03	511,500,000	0

Uganda

	Equivalent in £	*Exchange rate (£ to shs.)*	*Uganda shilling equivalent*	*Commission*
25 May 2007	50,911	3,260.59	166,000,000	0
30 May 2007	101,822	3,274.34	333,400,000	0
11 June 2007	53,767	3,081.82	165,700,000	0
14 June 2007	151,255	3,262.70	493,500,000	0

Source:
Barclays Bank Uganda Ltd.

Ghana

	Sterling value (£)	*Exchange rate (£ to cedi)*	*New Ghana cedis equivalent*	*Commission*
16 January 2007	50,000	1.8060	90,300.00	0
16 February 2007	50,000	1.8000	90,000.00	0
5 March 2007	80,000	1.7800	142,400.00	0
17 April 2007	50,000	1.8310	91,550.00	0
16 May 2007	60,000	1.8315	109,890.00	0
18 June 2007	60,000	1.8260	109,560.00	0

Source:
Standard Chartered Bank

Mozambique

	Equivalent in £	*US dollars ($) transformed to meticais*	*Exchange rate ($ to meticais)*	*Meticais equivalent*	*Commission*
17 January 2007	25,497.87	$50,000	1$ = 26 Mt	1,300,000	0
26 February 2007	25,380.07	$70,000	1$ = 26.2 Mt	1,834,000	0
9 March 2007	25,541.05	$50,000	1$ = 26.3 Mt	1,315,000	0
30 March 2007	56,261.29	$110,000	1$ = 26.2 Mt	2,898,500	0
2 May 2007	60,777.41	$120,000	1$ = 26.2 Mt	3,153,000	0
22 May 2007	30,466.12	$60,000	1$ = 25.75	1,566,000	0
18 June 2007	30,351.33	$60,000	$25.75	1,545,000	0

Source:
Standard Bank in Maputo

Ethiopia

Between 1 July and 31 December 2006 three transactions above the value of £25,000 were made in the DFID Ethiopia office. Funds were received from the Department's headquarters in the UK and converted to local currency in-country.

	Pound sterling (£) transformed to birr	*Equivalent in £*	*Exchange Rate (£ to birr)*	*Commission*
1 August 2006	1,137,852.65	70,175.44	16.2144	175.44
15 August 2006	3.296,761.85	200,501.00	16.4426	501.00
4 October 2006	4,108,997.55	250,626.57	16.3949	626.57

Source:
Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (International Banking Division)

Chad: Asylum

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to assist the Cameroon Government with providing food and shelter for refugees from Chad. [192357]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are assisting the Cameroon Government's response through a contribution to the United Nations (UN). The UN has recently released $4.72 million for the delivery of emergency relief to the refugees. This has come from the UN's Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), to which the UK is the largest donor. The UK's share of the contribution in this response is approximately 20 per cent., giving a UK contribution of £462,000.

The contribution helped support the World Food Programme (WFP) with the provision of high energy biscuits (HEB) in the first few days of the crisis, and with the ongoing provision of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil to the refugees still remaining in northern Cameroon. These number approximately 15,000.

The contribution is also being used by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to address the immediate nutritional needs of refugee children suffering from acute malnutrition.

The UK contribution is also being used by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the provision of shelter for refugees, both at the immediate crossing point from Chad, and at a more secure and appropriate site to which the refugees are being transferred, some 30 km away from the border.

Children: Malnutrition

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to assist developing countries to end child malnutrition. [192355]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are working to address the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition by supporting essential public services, such as the provision of health, water, sanitation and education. The Department for International Development has spent £400 million over the last three years to increase poor people's access to food through improving rural transport, improvements in crop and livestock production, strengthening markets, and investing in agricultural research and development. The UK is working with international partners like the United Nations Children's Fund to address child malnutrition.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's programmes were advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each advertising campaign was. [192465]

Gillian Merron: There has been no advertising of Department for International Development individual programmes to the public.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179885]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2206-07W, by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson).

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in receipt of UK development assistance import more than *(a)* 25 per cent. and *(b)* 50 per cent. of food consumed by their populations. [192503]

Gillian Merron: 66 developing countries received more than £1 million of DFID bilateral assistance (including DFID debt relief) in 2006-07 (the last year for which we have figures).

(a) Of these, the following countries import more than 25 per cent. of their food by weight but less than 50 per cent:

Burundi;
Cameroon;
Ghana;
Sri Lanka;
Mozambique;
Nicaragua;
Rwanda; Zimbabwe, and
Democratic Republic of Congo.

(b) The following countries import more than 50 per cent. of their food by weight:

Albania;
Angola;
Armenia;
Benin;
Bosnia and Herzegovina;
Gambia;
Georgia;
Jamaica;
Jordan;
Lebanon;
Liberia;
Peru;
Senegal;
Sierra Leone; and
Yemen.

The data (derived from the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute) do not distinguish those food imports that can be used for animal food and other non-human consumption and those that are used for human consumption.

Global Schools Partnership

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many schools in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the UK have taken part in the Global Schools Partnership in the last three years for which records are available. [192553]

Gillian Merron: A total of *(a)* 102 schools in Wales, and *(b)* 1,235 schools in the United Kingdom as a whole, have taken part in the DFID Global School Partnerships programme in the period from 1 April 2005 to 29 February 2008.

HIV Infection

Keith Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department's revised HIV and AIDS strategy will promote a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that *(a)* is effective for women and girls and *(b)* is based on evidence of what works. [192736]

Gillian Merron: Following a public consultation the UK Government are currently updating 'Taking Action—The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world'. The updated AIDS strategy will continue to place women and girls at its heart and to promote an AIDS response which is based on evidence and best practice.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in restoring access to humanitarian aid by the civilian population in Western Darfur in light of the activities of Sudanese and Chadian armed forces in the region and attacks on aid convoys; and if he will make a statement. [192024]

Gillian Merron: On 11 February, the Government of Sudan lifted its blockade against humanitarian agencies, which have now resumed humanitarian flights and providing emergency assistance, including non-food items and medicines, to conflict-affected people, but the protection of civilians remains a major concern. Humanitarian agencies are still unable to access the Jebel Moun area, where fighting was ongoing by the end of February, but humanitarian activities have since resumed close to the Chadian border south of El-Geneina.

I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friends, the Foreign and International Development Secretaries, on 27 February, which called on all parties to stop the violence; to allow immediate humanitarian access; to protect civilians; and to facilitate the deployment of UNAMID.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [192737]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Glenrothes (Mr. MacDougall) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2252W.

OLYMPICS

Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 835, on humanitarian aid, which Government department employs the Humanitarian Assistance Unit staff; what contribution the Department of Culture, Media and Sport makes to the unit; and which other departments make contributions. [191142]

Tessa Jowell: The Humanitarian Assistance Unit staff are employed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). DCMS also funds the work of the unit.

The following Departments and agencies contribute to the work of the unit, through the humanitarian assistance programme board: the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department of Health, the Cabinet Office, the Treasury, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Local Government Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons the figure of 250,000 existing apprenticeships, as referred to in the press release of 16 November 2007, "Ambitious Plans to Help Boost Nation's Job Prospects", is different from the figures for apprenticeships provided for *(a)* 16 to 18-year-olds and *(b)* adult learners in Table three and Table seven of the Learning and Skills Council's Statement of Priorities issued in November 2007. [175713]

Mr. Lammy: The figure of 250,000 is calculated by reference to "Average in Learning" (AiL), that is the average number of Apprentices during the year. This is also the basis for the figures in Table 7 of the Learning and Skills Council's "Statement of Priorities".

Table 3 uses a different methodology which counts the total number of Apprentices at any time during the year. This is to ensure comparability across the various funding lines for young people. The AiL numbers for 16-18 year olds are, however, also given in a footnote to the table.

We announced, in "World-class Apprenticeships", that we are changing the way we count Apprenticeships. In place of AiL, we will count the number of people starting an Apprenticeship in the year ('starts') and the percentage who complete an Apprenticeship ('completion rate').

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the capacity of *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal to remain in service until the future aircraft carriers join the fleet. [193140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Ark Royal and HMS Illustrious are to be withdrawn from service in 2012 and 2015 respectively. Our plans allow both ships to be fully supported in service until their scheduled withdrawal in advance of the future aircraft carriers joining the fleet.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 50 most expensive substitute service family accommodation and substitute single living accommodation properties rented out in the last 12 months were. [168873]

Derek Twigg: The information requested will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Nick Harvey:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 824W, about the 50 most expensive substitute Service family accommodation and substitute single living accommodation properties rented out in the last 12 months.

The 50 most expensive Substitute Service Families Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) properties currently rented out are listed in the attached. The following table details the range of ranks that are entitled to types of Service Families Accommodation (SFA).

Officers SFA entitlement

Type	*Persons (maximum)*	*Size (m2)*	*Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*
I	6-7	251	Admiral to Rear Admiral	General to Major General	Air Chief Marshall to Air Vice Marshall
II	6-7	210	Rear Admiral to Captain	Brigadier to Colonel	Air Commodore to Group Captain

Officers SFA entitlement

Type	*Persons (maximum)*	*Size (m2)*	*Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*
III	6	155.5	Commodore to Commander	Colonel to Lt. Colonel	Group Captain to Wing Commander
IV	6	137	Lt. Commander	Major	Squadron Leader
V	5	116.5	Lieutenant and below	Major	Squadron Leader

Other ranks SFA entitlement

Type	*Persons (maximum)*	*Size (m2)*	*Bedrooms*
D	7	119.5	4
C	5	94.5	3
B	4	85.5	2

With regards to SFA, the MOD is required to accommodate entitled personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with permission of their Service Commander), or for staff in London 90 minutes travelling time on public transport. Where no suitable SFA can be found, SSFA is offered within the appropriate distance from a duty station.

Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) is granted to entitled personnel requiring single accommodation when single living accommodation is not available at or close to an individual's place of work.

Substitute single service accommodation

Town	*Bedrooms*	*Rent (£)*
London	3	3,000.00
Slough	5	2,915.00
London	4	2,718.90
London	3	2,592.50
Liphook	6	2,500.00
London	3	2,441.00
London	1	2,340.00
London	3	2,307.20
Saffron Walden	4	2,300.00
London	2	2,285.90
London	2	2,274.95
London	2	2,272.85
London	1	2,225.00
Abingdon	4	2,200.00
London	3	2,197.60
London	2	2,191.66
London	3	2,188.33
London	2	2,187.50
London	2	2,148.55
London	2	2,145.00
London	2	2,131.80
London	2	2,123.33
London	2	2,110.00
London	4	2,110.00
London	2	2,105.00
London	2	2,101.66
London	2	2,100.00
London	2	2,096.00
London	2	2,096.00
London	2	2,094.85
London	2	2,092.85
London	2	2,092.60
London	2	2,090.70
London	2	2,090.70
London	2	2,090.00
London	2	2,090.00
London	2	2,088.00
London	2	2,088.00
London	3	2,086.00
London	3	2,086.00
London	2	2,086.00
London	2	2,085.00
London	3	2,085.00
London	2	2,084.00
London	2	2,084.00
London	2	2,080.00
London	2	2,076.00
London	3	2,075.00
London	2	2,074.00
London	2	2,067.00

Substitute service families accommodation

Town	*Band*	*Rent (£)*
Kew	II	4,218
Richmond	II	3,632
Twickenham	IV	3,500
Tadworth	III	3,125
Richmond	D	3,025
London	IV	3,000
Sevenoaks	IV	2,925
London	IV	2,903
London	IV	2,900
Surbiton	III	2,867
London	IV	2,860
London	IV	2,728
Great Missenden	II	2,687
Pirbright	III	2,660
Northwood	IV	2,600
Solihull	III	2,600
Northwood	IV	2,500
Ashtead	III	2,500
Birmingham	III	2,500
London	III	2,433
Windsor	D	2,404
Northwood	D	2,400
Uxbridge	IV	2,400
High Wycombe	III	2,400
Thame	III	2,351
Leighton Buzzard	II	2,350
Monks Risborough	III	2,300
Princes Risborough	IV	2,250
Amersham	IV	2,250
Marlow	IV	2,250
Princes Risborough	III	2,250
Maidenhead	IV	2,200
Princes Risborough	IV	2,200
Princes Risborough	IV	2,200
Oxford	V	2,200
High Wycombe	IV	2,175

Substitute service families accommodation

Town	*Band*	*Rent (£)*
Abingdon	III	2,175
Slough	C	2,175
Aylesbury	III	2,142
Old Portsmouth	III	2,120
Slough	C	2,090
Funtington	IV	2,081
Cambridge	III	2,075
London	D	2,060
Naphill	III	2,058
Aylesbury	IV	2,050
Bourne End	III	2,040
Solihull	III	2,025
Oxford	III	2,025
Luton	III	2,025

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period of time was taken to make repairs to a forces' accommodation property after a call out in the last period for which figures are available. [142100]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Letter from Derek Twigg to Nick Harvey:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 12 June 2007, (Official Report, column 934W) about the longest, shortest and average wait for repairs to be carried out to a forces' accommodation property after a call-out. I can only apologise for the length of time it has taken to provide a substantive response which was due to an administrative error which is very much regretted.

From January to March 2007 the longest, shortest and average time taken to make repairs to Single Living Accommodation (SLA) and Service Families Accommodation (SFA) is shown in the table below.

Accommodation	*Longest (in days)*	*Shortest (in days)*	*Average (in days)*
SLA (GB)	106	<1	8.4
SLA (overseas and NI)	141	<1	14.6
SFA (England and Wales) (June 2006 to May 2007)	324	<1	11.05
SFA (Scotland)	73	<1	9
SFA (overseas and NI)	153	<1	11.5

The above figures represent all types of repairs. While urgent and priority repairs are usually actioned within a matter of hours or a few days, routine repairs can take longer based on a number of factors, including the complexity of the work, whether accommodation is occupied or the availability of parts and materials that are required to finalise repairs.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many young people are members of the *(a)* Air Training Corps, *(b)* Army Cadet Force, *(c)* Royal Naval cadets, *(d)* sea cadets and *(e)* Combined Cadet Force; how many were members of each in 1997; what Government funding is allocated to each organisation in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [174140]

Derek Twigg: Membership of the MOD-affiliated cadet forces as at 1 April in 1997 and 2007 are as follows:

	1997	*2007*
Sea Cadets	15,161	12,438
ACF Army Cadets	40,047	44,723
ATC Air Cadets	32,920	30,852
CCF Combined cadet force	[1]—	42,593

[1] Figures unavailable

Note:

Item *(c)* 'Royal Navy Cadets' are covered by the RN element of the CCF and the SCC.

The final Government funding allocated to each organisation is as follows for 2007-08:

	£ million
Sea Cadets (includes CCF)	12.5
Air Cadets (includes CCF)	29.6
Army Cadets (includes CCF)	68.5

The mission of the UK cadet forces is to contribute to the development and preparation of young people for transition to adulthood, empowering them to meet the challenges of changing society, through dynamic, military themed, community based activities. We are very proud of the way that the cadet forces do that and, especially how they welcome cadets and adult volunteers from all aspects of the community regardless of culture, religion or, social background. Being community based organisations, the majority of cadets and adult volunteers are drawn from the communities in which the units are based and they therefore represent the social mix of the local community.

The cadet forces aid the personal and social development of young people through developing in young people the attributes of good citizenship, leadership and responsibility, and promote physical and mental fitness and self reliance.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* required and *(b)* optional EU (i) patches, (ii) badges and (iii) other insignia British forces wear when serving as a part of an EU military force. [193087]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Although it is not formally mandated, British Forces serving on EU operations wear a Flag of Europe (12 golden stars on a blue background) badge on their sleeve. This is in the same way that British forces serving on NATO or UN operations wear the badge of those respective organisations.

Bombs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Government plan to phase out cluster munitions in line with the developments of the Oslo Process. [193322]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Oslo Process aims to conclude a legally binding instrument in 2008 on those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The UK is engaged in the process to that end.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government intend to call for exemption of ballistic sensor fused munitions as part of the Oslo Process to ban all cluster munitions. [193323]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK is engaged in negotiations under the auspices of the Oslo Declaration and will handle the issue of individual weapon systems within that context.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the force generation process for the EU peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic is complete; [193086]

(2) whether the required *(a)* strategic and tactical airlift, *(b)* helicopter support and *(c)* engineering capabilities are available for the EU peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic. [193088]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the force generation conference on 11 January, the Operation Commander considered that sufficient forces and enablers had been generated to recommend the launch of the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad/Central African Republic (CAR). The mission was then formally launched at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January.

As in other operations, force generation is an iterative process that will respond on an ongoing basis to changes in contributions and requirements.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the army units of the Colombian army which entered Ecuadorian territory have been recipients of British military aid, assistance or advice in the last five years. [193335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK was not involved in, nor had prior knowledge of, the Colombian operation into Ecuador against the FARC. HMG is not aware that any Colombian personnel trained by the UK in the last five years were involved in the operation. UK training to the Colombian armed forces has very specific objectives: improving human rights, assisting humanitarian de-mining, and countering the flow of illegal narcotics. The UK has not and does not provide assistance or advice to the Colombian Government for counter insurgency purposes.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1490W, on Cyprus: Military Bases, how many individuals were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of poaching under the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004 in each of the last three years. [190933]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to my right hon. Friend.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to John Spellar:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 5 March 2008, (Official Report, column 2554W) about individuals charged and convicted, of poaching in sovereign base areas in Cyprus.

Under the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance, there are a variety of offences involving the shooting, killing, capturing or pursuing of game and/or wild birds. Approximately 90 per cent of the figures given below are for mist netting offences and carrying a shotgun in a game reserve area.

The figures for the Sovereign Base Areas are:

Financial year	*Number charged*	*Number convicted*	*Charged but pending*
2005-06	28	22	2
2006-07	39	29	1
2007-08	86	41	41

Cases pending for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are where the accused lives in the Republic of Cyprus and have chosen not to appear in front of the SBA court. In 2007-08 the pending cases are due to be heard over the next few months.

Departmental Databases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes. [170837]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is MOD's policy that all personal data are handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act. MOD employs a system of data protection officers who implement the policies set by the Data Protection Policy Cell and advise business units about their handling and use of personal data. In the light of the recent events surrounding the loss of data on service recruits, a full review of our policies and procedures is being led by Sir Edmund Burton. It is due to report no later than 30 April 2008.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what private finance initiative projects have been approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years, broken down by *(a)* value and *(b)* start date. [190883]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Departmental Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security passes staff in his Department reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in (i) his Department and (ii) departmental agencies in each year since 2001. [190604]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, records are available from 2003 and I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Under-Secretaries of State on 28 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 371W, and 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1713W, to the hon. Members for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) and for Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) respectively.

Figures for lost/stolen service identity cards for the period from July 2006 are as follows. It is not possible to differentiate between lost or stolen cards or whether the card relates to the Department or one of its agencies.

	Lost/stolen military identity cards
1 July 2006 to 31 December 2006	4,433
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	6,812

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas for officials in the last year for which figures are available. [191169]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 201W, on departmental vehicles, whether the vehicles to which the answer referred were leased solely from the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [192844]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The vehicles are leased under the Ministry of Defence's contract with VT Land (Whitefleet Management) Ltd. and not from the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what European Security and Defence Policy missions are in the pre-operational planning stage. [193101]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Defence Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sets of enhanced body armour are available for infantry serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [193355]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All personnel deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan are issued with a complete set of Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) before departure. At present, between 14,000 and 16,000 sets of ECBA are being issued to personnel entering operational theatres every six months. Further stocks are also held in theatre for maintenance purposes.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel from *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency are serving in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [193417]

Derek Twigg: The information requested on the UK residential location of armed forces personnel is not held centrally in databases of individual records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the capacity of the UK Joint Harrier Force to remain in service until the Joint Strike Fighter becomes available. [193141]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him and the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1493W.

Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* annual budget of and *(b)* UK contribution to the Organisation for Joint Armaments Cooperation was in each year since 1997. [190690]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK contributions to the Organisation for Joint Armaments Cooperation (OCCAR) budgets for each year from 1997 are as follows. Annual budget information for OCCAR has not been provided as disclosure would prejudice relations between the UK and other OCCAR member states.

Table 1: Operating costs

	UK contribution to budget	*UK contribution (estimated using an average of the general accounting rate for that year)*
1997	DM0.229 million	£0.104 million
1998	DM0.185 million	£0.071 million
1999	DM0.210 million	£0.076 million
2000	€2.713 million	£1.799 million
2001	€2.967 million	£1.840 million
2002	€3.743 million	£2.329 million
2003	€4.023 million	£2.614 million
2004	€4.737 million	£3.271 million
2005	€3.341 million	£2.328 million
2006	€3.246 million	£2.291 million
2007	€2.870 million	£2.006 million
2008	€3.174 million	£2.235 million

Table 2: Equipment costs

	UK contribution to budget (€ million)	*UK contribution (estimated using an average of the general accounting rate for that year) (£ million)*
2003	45.144	29.335
2004	124.228	85.783
2005	206.304	143.724
2006	215.100	151.835
2007	293.233	204.939
2008	449.327	316.427

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on peacekeeping operations, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other NATO member states on the future rota of the Operational Reserve Force requirement for the Balkans. [193148]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requirement for an Operational Reserve Force for the Balkans is kept under constant review by NATO.

Qinetiq: Repayments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was received by his Department as a result of the clawback agreement with QinetiQ in each of the last five years. [192506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department expects to receive £646,710 as a result of the clawback agreement with QinetiQ. The following table shows the sites involved and the amount that has been received or will soon be received:

Site title	*Year site sold by Qinetiq*	*Amount of clawback received (£)*	*Amount of clawback to be received (£)*
Angle	2006	—	54,960
Cobbett Hill	2004	97,821	—
Fort Halstead	2005	—	289,000
Hutton Moor	2005	204,929	—

It should be noted that the monies awaited are subject to final negotiation over payment.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of each corps of the Territorial Army is. [193093]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A detailed breakdown of Territorial Army Liability figures by Arm Service is not available, as the figures are not captured in this way. However, the overall Territorial Army liability as at 1 March 2007 was 42,000 which included 3,500 Officer Training Corps.

A breakdown of the Territorial Army by Arm Service can be found in the 1 March 2007 Army Monthly Manning Report, Section G, Tables G3 and G4, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Weapons: Spare Parts

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2019-20W, on weapons, when the last purchase of *(a)* general purpose machine guns and additional quick change barrels and *(b)* 0.5 calibre heavy machine guns and additional quick change barrels was made; and when the next such purchases are planned. [192602]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 March 2008]*: MOD has contracts in place with all its machine gun manufacturers to provide the weapons and spares to continue to support the current levels of operational usage. Contractors are paid upon delivery, hence the dates provided in the following table are delivery dates. For the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and Heavy Machine Gun Quick Change Barrel (HMG (QCB)) the details are as follows:

Item	*Last delivery*	*Next delivery*
GPMG (gun including two barrels)	1970s	May 2008 onwards
GPMG spare barrels	November 2007	November 2008 onwards
HMG (QCB) (gun including two barrels)	February 2007	March 2008 onwards
HMG spare barrels	April 2007	March 2008 onwards

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191110]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is as follows:

Year	*Site name*	*Consenting authority*	*Reason for MOD objection*
2005	Crow Holt	Bassetlaw district council	Interference with air traffic control (ATC) radar
2005	Royal Oak	Darlington borough council	Interference with ATC radar
2005	Greencroft	Derwentside borough council	Interference with air defence (AD) radar
2005	Hartside/Green Rig	Tynedale council	Interference with ATC radar
2005	Fallago Rig	Scottish Executive	Interference with AD radar
2005	Limmer Hill	Scottish Executive	Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying
2005	Orby Marsh	DBERR	Interference with ATC radar
2005	Spireslack	Scottish Executive	Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying
2005	Ray Estates	DBERR	Interference with ATC radar
2006	Gapshield	Tynedale	Interference with ATC radar
2006	Aesica	Blyth Valley council	Interference with AD radar
2006	McCain Foods	Fenland district council	Interference with ATC radar
2006	Moneylaws Hill	Berwick Upon Tweed	Interference with AD radar
2006	Broombank	Highland council	Interference with ATC radar
2006	Middlemoor	DBERR	Interference with AD radar
2006	Dunbeath	Scottish Executive	Interference with ATC radar
2006	Earlshaugh	Scottish Executive	Interference to Eskdalemuir seismological recording station
2006	Newfield	Scottish Executive	Interference to Eskdalemuir seismological recording station
2006	Scaut Hill	Scottish Executive	Interference with AD and ATC radar

Year	*Site name*	*Consenting authority*	*Reason for MOD objection*
2007	Bruxiehill	Aberdeenshire council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Manor Farm Stainfield	West Lindsey district council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Townhead/Fleeter Wood	Allerdale borough council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Woodgate Farm	South Holland district council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Cotton Farm	Huntingdon council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Sunderland Farm/Roos	East Riding council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Wandylaw	Berwick Upon Tweed	Interference with AD radar
2007	Routh/Hall Farm	East Riding council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Monkwith	East Riding council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Imerys	Restmorel	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Epson	Telford and Wrekin council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Aultmore	Moray council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Wryde Croft	Peterborough council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Lazenby Fell	Eden district council	Interference with NATS radar (military)
2007	Hare Hill Extension	East Ayrshire	Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying
2007	Andershaw	South Lanarkshire council	Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying
2007	Premier Foods	South Holland district council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	MSD Cramlington	Blyth Valley council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Peterborough Sewage Works/Flag Fen	Peterborough council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Knutsgrove	Peterborough council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Withernwick	East Riding council	Interference with AD radar
2007	Bruntshiels/Gathercauld	Fife council	Interference with ATC radar
2007	Steadings/Great Bavingdon	DBERR	Interference with ATC radar

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) fully supports the Government's renewable energy policies and considers each development proposal on a case by case basis and only objects where absolutely essential. To assist developers and avoid unnecessary expenditure MOD operates a pre-planning consultation system. We are always ready to consider mitigation measures, i.e. changing height or number of turbines or slightly changing their location where mutually agreeable if that would allow a development to go forward.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many expressions of interest in creating an academy school have been registered since June 2005; [188837]

(2) how many academy school projects entered the feasibility stage in each month since June 2005; [188838]

(3) on how many occasions expressions of interest in creating an academy school were agreed by the Secretary of State in each month since June 2005. [188859]

Jim Knight: Once an Expression of Interest for an academy has been agreed, the academy project enters its feasibility stage. Up to the end of January 2008, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and his predecessors had agreed 114 Academy Expressions of Interest since June 2005. The names of the academies, the phase they have reached and the date that the Expression of Interest was signed are placed in the House Libraries.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average length of time the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) took to produce reports in child contact cases in each CAFCASS area in the last period for which figures are available. [184756]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, has written to my hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 14 February 2008:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently:

184756—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what average length of time the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) took to produce reports in child contact cases in each Cafcass area in the last period for which figures are available.

The attached table indicates the average number of weeks it takes each regional team to file a Section 7 Report. These figures are for the period 01 April 2007 to the 31 December 2007.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children who were victims of crimes committed by parents or carers in the last year. [187720]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

There is no single data source that is able to provide an authorative estimate of the number of children who were victims of crimes committed by their parents or carers.

Home Office statistics showed that in 2006-07, 33 homicide victims under the age of 16 were killed by their parents.

Home Office research published in 1998 on child sex offending showed the majority of perpetrators (80 per cent.) sexually assault children who are known to them, with these offences taking place in the home of either the offender or the victim.

An NSPCC commissioned survey published in 2000, found seven per cent. of young adults had suffered physical abuse as a child at the hands of parents or carers.

The 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) shows among children aged 10 to 15 years who were victims of assaults (both with and without injury) parents were the perpetrator in one per cent. of cases.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects there will be sufficient provision of child care in all areas for all ages of children up to 14 years. [192931]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare Act 2006 requires all English local authorities to complete by 31 March 2008 assessments of the sufficiency of child care in their areas, showing demand for child care, available supply, and any gaps between the two. From 1 April 2008, local authorities will be under a related duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient child care places for all working parents, or parents undertaking education or training in preparation for work. Every local authority will be expected to work with schools and private, voluntary and independent sector providers to fill, as far as it is able, gaps in provision identified in its sufficiency assessment.

Children's Centres: Loughborough

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children centres have opened in Loughborough; [193054]

(2) how many places are available in children centres in Loughborough; [193064]

(3) when he expects to complete the programme of building children centres in Loughborough. [193065]

Beverley Hughes: As of 7 March, there are five designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Loughborough, with one further centre due to be designated by the end of March. Local authorities have until 2010 to complete the final phase of the roll out of their children's centre programmes. All local authorities have been given indicative numbers of centres required to reach the remaining children under five in their areas and will be supported by our deliver partner, Together for Children, in planning their remaining centres. Children's centres provide a range of services depending on local need. They do not offer a set number of places but it is expected that on average a children's centre will serve a community with about 800 children under five years old. Centres in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas offer child care to some children in their area. Information is not held centrally about the number of child care places in each centre.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will break down, by subhead in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non cash terms his Department's (i) gross resource outturn, (ii) operating appropriations in aid outturn, (iii) gross capital outturn and (iv) non-operating appropriations in aid outturn for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [191765]

Kevin Brennan: The subheads of a Department change over time so a time series analysis by subhead does not provide a consistent set of figures. The following table sets out the figures requested by request for resource for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 for DCSF programmes within the former Department for Education and Skills. Figures for 2001-02 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	RfR	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Resource budget expenditure						
Near-cash	RfR01	39,557,190	11,933,770	10,474,593	10,107,111	9,405,399
	RfR02	1,077,432	929,369	728,367	603,940	183,974
	RfR03	142,947	168,842	221,579	261,970	139,883
Near cash total		40,777,569	13,031,981	11,424,539	10,973,021	9,729,256
Non-cash	RfR01	26,309	27,050	20,737	13,735	1,534
	RfR02	0	—	—	872	134
Non-cash total		26,309	27,050	20,737	14,607	1,668
Resource expenditure total		40,803,878	13,059,031	11,445,276	10,987,628	9,730,924
Resource budget appropriations-in-aid						
Near-cash	RfR01	-16,390	-15,457	-12,551	-16,034	-13,193
	RfR02	—	-290	-319	-1	—
	RfR03	—	—	—	-1	—
Near cash total		-16,390	-15,747	-12,870	-16,036	-13,193

	RfR	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Resource AiA total		-16,390	-15,747	-12,870	-16,036	-13,193
Capital budget expenditure						
Capital	RfR01	13,894	8,639	9,621	12,311	11,116
	RfR03	—	14	33	—	—
Capital total		13,894	8,653	9,654	12,311	11,116
Capital expenditure total		13,894	8,653	9,654	12,311	11,116
Capital budget appropriations-in-aid						
Capital	RfR01	-169	-124	-529	-718	-144
Capital total		-169	-124	-529	-718	-144
Capital AiA total		-169	-124	-529	-718	-144

Education Maintenance Allowance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people who are not resident in the United Kingdom were receiving the education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [189557]

Jim Knight: Young people who are not resident in the UK are not eligible to apply for education maintenance allowance (EMA) unless they are from a British forces family and attending a service children's education (SCE) school overseas.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) operates the EMA for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 4 March 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many young people who are not resident in the United Kingdom were receiving the education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available."

Young people who are not resident in the UK are not eligible to apply for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) unless they are from a British Forces family and attending a Service Children's Education (SCE) school overseas.

In 2006/07 there were 14 learners receiving EMA with a BFPO postcode.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expenditure by his Department was on the education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction, broken down by income decile of recipients' parents. [188729]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about and payments and expenditure made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 6 March 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "What the total expenditure by his Department was on the Educational Maintenance Allowance in each year since its introduction, broken down by parental income decile of recipients."

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

Applications are income assessed, based on the learner's total household income, with the maximum income to be eligible in 2007/08 of £30,810.

If the learner fully meets the criteria of the scheme they are entitled to receive weekly payments as follows:

£

Household income per annum 2004-05	*Household income per annum 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08*	*Weekly EMA payment*
Up to 19,630	Up to 20,817	30
19,631 to 24,030	20,818 to 25,521	20
24,031 to 30,000	25,522 to 30,810	10
Over 30,000	Over 30,810	Nil

The following table shows EMA expenditure split by payment band for England during each academic year since the schemes inception.

EMA expenditure in each academic year, England

£ million

Band	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	[1]*2007-08*
30	195.8	279.8	344.3	202.8
20	17.3	25.1	28.5	16.1
10	9.4	11.4	12.3	6.9
Total	222.5	316.3	385.1	225.7

[1] To end February 2008

Education Maintenance Allowance: Fraud

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fraudulent claims of education maintenance allowance there were in each year since 1999-2000. [164382]

Jim Knight: After extensive piloting, the education maintenance allowance was rolled out nationally from September 2004. Responsibility for operating the education maintenance allowance, and implementing and maintaining a strategy for managing the risk of fraud, transferred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 1 April 2005. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 22 November 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked:

How many fraudulent claims of educational maintenance allowance there were in each year since 1999-2000.

After extensive piloting, the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was rolled out nationally from September 2004. In taking the decision to roll out the scheme, the then Department for education and Skills (DfES) ensured there were robust arrangements in place to minimise the risk of fraud.

Prior to the rollout of the national scheme, the potential for EMA Fraud was discussed with previous Secretaries of State and the then DfES Board. Both acknowledged that some degree of fraud is inevitable in a scheme such as EMA.

Responsibility for operating EMA, and maintaining and implementing a strategy for managing the risk of fraud, transferred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 1 April 2005.

The EMA national scheme has been operating in its current form since September 2004 and in 2006/07 supported over 525,000 learners aged 16 to 19.

The following table provides details on the number of fraudulent claims that have been identified and the amount of money recovered for the 4 years of the national scheme.

	Number of fraudulent claims established	*Amount recovered (£)*
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	15	1,120
2006-07	15	1,170
2007-08 (to date)	1	0

English Language: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding was provided to each local authority for the provision of English as a foreign language teaching in each year since 1997. [193328]

Jim Knight: The Government provide funding for new arrivals and EAL children in schools through two main routes. The first is an unringfenced element within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for primary schools and the second is a substantial provision for EAL through the ringfenced Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG).

The following spreadsheet shows the sums provided to each authority through EMAG. Data are only available from 1999.

Allocations for Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant each year since 1999-2000

£

Local authority	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*[1]	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*Total Allocation/ 2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Corporation of London	108,500	107,415	107,415	107,415	107,415	107,415	106,113	105,462	104,811
Camden	2,931,900	3,102,868	2,931,900	2,931,900	2,931,900	2,931,900	2,830,984	2,820,626	2,820,626
Greenwich	1,783,616	1,866,510	1,912,505	1,912,505	1,912,505	2,048,839	2,294,525	2,431,705	2,562,171
Hackney	4,299,222	4,442,766	4,299,222	4,299,222	4,299,222	4,510,578	4,510,578	4,510,578	4,627,167
Hammersmith and Fulham	940,880	1,189,642	1,202,577	1,202,577	1,202,577	1,349,811	1,747,200	1,938,761	2,071,664
Islington	2,529,175	2,529,175	2,529,175	2,529,175	2,529,175	2,679,211	2,833,729	2,941,473	3,078,838
Kensington and Chelsea	1,177,506	1,219,975	1,164,506	1,164,506	1,164,506	1,220,007	1,264,995	1,303,156	1,360,649
Lambeth	3,436,055	3,603,405	3,402,055	3,402,055	3,402,055	3,641,709	3,997,186	4,206,123	4,421 830
Lewisham	2,211,561	2,543,947	2,698,457	2,698,457	2,698,457	2,856,268	3,090,629	3,253,408	3,395,732
Southwark	1,431,818	1,910,192	2,053,869	2,053,869	2,053,869	2,429,505	3,735045	4,333,427	4,690,306
Tower Hamlets	8,125,380	8,095,454	8,044,136	8,044,136	8,044,136	8,437,623	8,437,623	8,537,623	8,665,220
Wandsworth	1,912,879	2,163,323	2,332,179	2,332,179	2,332,179	2,446,492	2,569,965	2,660,780	2,782,700
Westminster	2,151,538	2,136,538	2,136,538	2,136,538	2,136,538	2,305,676	2,664,249	2,853,890	3,017,074
Barking	662,475	672,625	634,870	634,870	634,870	699,613	1,040,865	1,198,271	1,294,123
Barnet	1,459,113	1,190,476	1,913,572	1,913,572	1,913,572	2,002,332	2,239,468	2,372,173	2,499,053
Bexley	179,781	313,705	273,969	273,969	273,969	290,652	378,085	420,134	449,124
Brent	2,370,904	2,804,240	2,991,961	2,991,961	2,991,961	3,238,458	4,027,377	4,416,301	4,702,371
Bromley	51,161	166,547	112,808	112,808	112,808	146,707	338,189	422,717	466,722
Croydon	2,032,254	2,163,023	2,107,095	2,107,095	2,107,095	2,211,492	2,471,781	2,617,745	2,757,591
Ealing	2,949,303	3,556,921	3,701,735	3701,735	3,701,735	3,882,071	4,045,735	4,175,977	4,363,008
Enfield	2,293,602	2,357,497	2,476,533	2,476,533	2,476,533	2,613,754	2,979,838	3,177,463	3,354,398
Haringey	3,337,039	3,526,622	3,599,985	3,599,985	3,599,985	3,846,606	4,348,194	4,623,066	4,876,048
Harrow	863,751	1,214,881	1,263,821	1,263,821	1,263,821	1,324,360	1,562,055	1,684,617	1,784,674
Havering	75,640	131,090	109,926	109,926	109,926	118,233	177,740	205,130	221,694

Allocations for Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant each year since 1999-2000

£

	Total Allocation								
Local authority	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*[1]	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Hillingdon	629,631	872,091	792,240	792,240	792,240	845,995	1,061,611	1,195,895	1,276,512
Hounslow	1,829,207	2,279,528	2,360,138	2,360,138	2,360,138	2,416,406	2,452,024	2,504,630	2,607,840
Kingston Upon Thames	222,389	309,329	312,690	312,690	312,690	312,690	326,902	337,635	353,106
Merton	803,895	913,930	989,608	989,608	989,608	989,608	989,608	989,608	[illegible],991,759
Newham	253,058	1,038,976	1,410,731	3,333,858	3,333,858	3,950,127	5,988,205	6,924,770	7,488,154
Redbridge	1,965,442	2,228,929	2,417,966	2,417,966	2,417,966	2,417,966	2,536,702	2,625,041	2,744,882
Richmond Upon Thames	76,765	164,041	142,621	142,621	142,621	157,018	233,837	269,263	290,821
Sutton	151,345	301,005	229,067	229,067	229,067	242,953	317,531	353,321	377,850
Waltham Forest	2,054,111	2,426,419	2,557,579	2,557,579	2,557,579	2,715,776	3,027,079	3,202,743	3,372,816
Birmingham	5,908,043	7,288,725	8,211,164	8,211,164	8,211,164	9,110,045	11,794,368	13,088,224	13,985,663
Coventry	3,208,635	3,208,635	3,208,635	3,208,635	3,208,635	3,208,635	3,041,387	2,957,763	2,874,139
Dudley	1,679,723	1,679,723	1,679,723	1,679,723	1,679,723	1,679,723	1,517,113	1,435,808	1,354,504
Sandwell	331,689	1,994,539	1,736,068	1,736,068	1,736,068	1,814,722	1,894,601	1,956,933	2,045,035
Solihull	—	73,120	39,978	39,978	39,978	53,154	141,274	179,053	199,633
Walsall	1,962,120	1,962,120	1,962,120	1,962,120	1,962,120	1,962,120	1,809,607	1,733,350	1,657,094
Wolverhampton	2,498,696	3,566,228	2,498,696	2,498,696	2,498,696	2,498,696	2,360,424	2,291,288	2,222,152
Knowsley	—	4,002	6,760	6,760	6,760	35,000	37,867	39,631	41,594
Liverpool	444,014	519,083	573,262	573,262	573,262	636,833	800,301	880,339	938,275
St. Helens	27,343	86,914	34,064	34,064	34,064	35,000	37,237	38,738	40,577
Sefton	—	79,841	13,525	13,525	13,525	35,000	35,000	60,934	65,867
Wirral	—	12,340	20,631	20,631	20,631	35,000	96,176	108,703	120,296
Bolton	938,052	1,147,765	1,052,062	1,052,062	1,052,062	1,052,062	909,047	909,047	909,047
Bury	487,320	539,266	487,320	487,320	487,320	487,320	374,074	365,215	365,215
Manchester	2,98[illegible],[illegible]48	3,[illegible]05,363	3,013,363	3,013,363	3,013,363	3,293,657	3,974,538	4,317,909	4,584,630
Oldham	2,423,068	2,423,934	2,403,068	2,403,068	2,403,068	2,403,065	2,264,101	2,194,618	2,125,134
Rochdale	1,490,703	1,608,763	1,490,703	1,490,703	1,490,703	1,490,703	1,364,399	1,301,247	1,257,291
Salford	94,732	206,052	125,078	125,078	125,078	139,637	208,504	240,246	259,528
Stockport	114,892	103,080	120,653	120,653	120,653	130,108	174,581	195,695	209,735
Tameside	531,905	646,649	531,905	531,905	531,905	531,905	406,252	394,186	394,186
Trafford	421,131	518,210	523,308	523,308	523,308	523,308	447,074	447,074	447,074
Wigan	121,503	243 818	121,503	121,503	121,503	121,503	89,076	89,076	89,076
Barnsley	—	81,322	11,316	11,316	11,316	35,000	41,415	44,712	47,383
Doncaster	139,870	324,711	174,730	174,730	174,730	184,533	193,235	199,822	208,896
Rotherham	628,345	667,136	628,345	628,345	628,345	628,345	479,546	409,602	409,602
Sheffield	1,870,859	2,018,222	1,870,859	1,870,859	1,870,859	1,870,859	1,641,373	1,641,373	1,641,373
Bradford	7,569,000	7,788,980	7,569,000	7,569,000	7,569,000	7,569,000	7,280,251	7,135,876	6,991,501
Calderdale	1,150,746	1,150,746	1,150,746	1,150,746	1,150,746	1,150,746	1,037,602	981,031	924,459
Kirklees	4,152,833	4,187,568	4,152,833	4,152,833	4,152,833	4,152,823	3,933,893	3,824,423	3,714,953
Leeds	1,186,136	1,704,706	1,512,802	1,512,802	1,512,802	1,579,478	1,701,784	1,778,712	1,865,915
Wakefield	474,288	563,667	474,288	474,288	474,288	474,288	305,872	254,234	254,234
Gateshead	54,404	128,279	65,549	65,549	65,549	69,375	81,521	87,809	92,990
Newcastle Upon Tyne	504,213	600,263	613,453	613,453	613,453	644,179	699,383	733,044	769,670
North Tyneside	155,504	198,051	161,012	161,012	161,012	161,512	95,391	95,391	95,391
South Tyneside	208,885	208,885	208,885	208,885	208,885	208,885	124,706	123,011	123,011
Sunderland	128,867	194,214	144,208	144,208	144,206	144,208	144,208	144,365	149,304
Isles of Scilly	—	0	63	63	63	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	—	45,686	51,622	51,622	51,622	51,622	52,242	53,303	55,482
Bristol	1,126,875	1,036,269	1,036,269	1,036,269	1,036,269	1,036,269	1,036,269	1,045,689	1,084,372
North Somerset	—	14,479	18,253	18,253	18,253	35,000	35,603	36,402	37,914
South Gloucestershire	—	404,142	44,911	44,911	44,911	46,477	62,727	70,426	75,514
Hartlepool	23,221	23,722	25,807	25,807	25,807	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Middlesbrough	459,107	612,787	454,607	454,607	454,607	454,607	446,661	446,661	446,661
Redcar and Cleveland	45,820	45,320	45,320	45,320	45,320	49,623	66,265	74,180	79,471
Stockton-on-Tees	197,972	195,418	195,418	195,418	195,418	195,418	148,068	148,068	148,068
Kingston-upon-Hull	51,694	52,791	60,019	60,019	60,019	68,643	104,008	120,261	130,041
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	387,330	19,690	19,690	19,690	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,868

Allocations for Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant each year since 1999-2000

£

					Total Allocation[1]				
Local authority	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*[1]	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East Lincolnshire	43,476	43,476	43,476	43,476	43,476	43,549	47,387	49,708	52,205
North Lincolnshire	281,121	281,121	281,121	281,121	281,121	281,121	195,947	153,360	140,489
North Yorkshire	72,456	174,580	43,963	43,963	43,963	45,965	57,942	63,798	68,014
York	—	146,838	58,901	58,901	58,901	58,901	48,701	48,701	48,701
Bedfordshire	1,018,635	1,227,363	1,018,635	1,018,635	1,018,635	1,018,635	813,145	710,400	695,452
Luton	2,215,052	2,287,952	2,188,832	2,188,832	2,188,832	2,188,832	2,188,832	2,188,832	2,246,857
Buckinghamshire	1,594,891	1,603,612	1,594,891	1,594,891	1,594,891	1,594,891	1,346,796	1,222,748	1,098,700
Milton Keynes	384,562	480,419	467,667	467,667	467,667	467,667	468,196	475,643	494,349
Derbyshire	—	107,991	121,568	121,568	121,568	121,568	129,863	135,303	141,792
Derby City	1,741,890	1,911,083	1,653,054	1,653,354	1,653,054	1,653,054	1,525,097	1,461,119	1,409,218
Dorset	—	65,534	26,415	26,415	26,415	35,000	38,347	40,326	42,385
Poole	48,708	67,272	22,098	22,098	22,098	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Bournemouth	—	24,909	31,284	31,284	31,284	35,000	62,670	75,098	82,006
Durham	—	336,146	92,529	92,529	92,529	92,529	89,729	89,729	89,729
Darlington	191,074	114,645	114,645	114,645	114,645	114,645	61,632	57,845	57,845
East Sussex	149,209	334,931	180,666	189,666	180,666	180,666	182,979	186,761	194,408
Brighton and Hove	247,270	247,270	247,270	247,270	247,270	247,270	255,648	263,064	274,569
Hampshire	177,125	397,838	250,513	250,513	250,513	250,513	273,691	287,516	302,100
Portsmouth	217,491	217,491	217,491	217,491	217,491	217,491	206,841	206,841	206,841
Southampton	483,237	483,237	483,237	483,237	483,237	483,237	483,237	483,237	487,132
Leicestershire	634,726	1,048,455	811,986	811,986	811,986	811,986	517,740	507,604	507,604
Leicester City	3,255,001	3,645,064	3,645,064	3,645,064	3,645,064	3,645,064	3,645,064	3,649,439	3,774,424
Rutland	—	0	1,630	0	1,630	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Staffordshire	490,666	490,666	528,985	528,985	528,985	528,985	376,298	376,298	376,298
Stoke-on-Trent	614,112	614,112	614,112	614,112	614,112	614,112	614,112	614,112	616,112
Wiltshire	—	280,985	89,375	89,375	89,375	89,375	89,375	90,157	93,482
Swindon	178,352	128,473	142,712	142,712	142,712	142,712	162,060	172,575	182,108
Bracknell Forest	—	18,058	23,219	23,219	23,219	35,000	40,080	42,803	45,208
Windsor and Maidenhead	242,142	281,552	307,795	307,795	307,795	307,795	242,284	209,529	207,522
West Berkshire	—	20,692	26,541	26,541	26,541	35,000	44,775	49,514	52,855
Reading	503,353	480,975	480,975	480,975	480,975	480,975	478,124	478,124	478,124
Slough	1,084,527	1,238,694	1,344,916	1,344,916	1,344,916	1,344,916	1,268,479	1,260,765	1,260,765
Wokingham	25,109	297,927	72,947	72,947	72,947	72,947	85,906	92,600	98,085
Cambridgeshire	461,390	889,509	456,390	456,390	456,390	456,390	308,402	308,402	308,402
Peterborough	1,008,312	1,064,212	981,212	981,212	981,212	981,212	880,126	829,583	815,303
Cheshire	—	280,000	35,384	35,384	35,384	43,858	104,472	131,189	145,016
Halton	—	0	4,175	4,175	4,175	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Warrington	110,886	108,886	108,886	108,886	108,886	108,886	71,499	71,499	71,499
Devon	17,597	325,827	36,839	36,839	36,839	42,109	71,676	85,028	92,597
Plymouth	108,390	108,390	108,390	108,390	108,390	113,674	122,200	127,617	133,838
Torbay	—	3,563	6,159	6,159	6,159	35,000	44,642	49,325	52,639
Essex	10,658	548,237	124,623	124,623	124,623	154,724	358,586	448,556	495,348
Southend-on-Sea	—	17,583	31,111	31,111	31,111	35,000	121,169	158,729	177,298
Thurrock	51,146	133,954	72,670	72,670	72,670	78,696	121,043	140,431	152,023
Herefordshire	—	2,019	3,480	3,480	3,480	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Worcestershire	374,099	374,099	374,099	374,099	374,099	374,099	226,532	226,532	226,532
Kent	1,824,159	2,459,221	1,824,159	1,824,159	1,824,159	1,824,159	1,098,838	934,264	934,264
Medway	456,320	343,320	343,320	343,320	343,320	343,320	234,159	234,159	234,159
Lancashire	4,134,560	4,506,176	4,134,560	4,134,560	4,134,560	4,134,560	3,539,176	3,241,484	2,943,792
Blackburn with Darwen	2,069,706	2,069,706	2,069,706	2,069,706	2,069,706	2,069,706	1,977,126	1,930,837	1,884,547
Blackpool	—	5,176	8,491	8,491	8,491	35,000	45,815	51,006	54,554
Nottinghamshire	176,832	362,633	267,267	267,267	267,267	280,035	332,407	359,230	380,808
Nottingham City	1,989,797	2,004,797	1,973,797	1,973,797	1,973,797	1,973,797	1,972,504	1,972,504	1,972,504
Shropshire	—	35,230	39,608	39,608	39,608	39,608	39,608	39,608	40,798
Telford and Wrekin	216,498	211,140	228,496	228,496	228,496	228,496	228,496	229,109	237,074

Allocations for Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant each year since 1999-2000

	Total Allocation[1]								£
Local authority	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*[1]	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cornwall	—	124,501	10,843	10,843	10,843	35,000	43,732	48,024	51,157
Cumbria	—	86,920	12,900	12,900	12,900	35,000	45,719	50,865	54,393
Gloucestershire	329,641	534,935	361,118	361,118	361,118	361,118	261,826	261,826	261,826
Hertfordshire	2,272,207	2,841,259	2,272,207	2,272,207	2,272,207	2,272,207	1,707,656	1,426,981	1,426,981
Isle Of Wight	—	0	4,168	4,168	4,168	35,000	35,630	36,442	37,959
Lincolnshire	124,699	369,384	153,817	153,817	153,817	153,817	165,608	173,048	181,517
Norfolk	317,925	679,779	305,925	305,925	305,925	305,925	274,374	274,374	274,374
Northamptonshire	837,562	1,139,918	837,562	837,562	837,562	837,562	619,488	619,488	619,488
Northumberland	—	89,118	12,271	0	12,271	35,000	39,982	42,663	45,048
Oxfordshire	690,665	1,188,472	742,282	804,282	804,282	804,282	564,667	564,667	564,667
Somerset	94,353	246,840	94,353	94,353	94,353	94,353	75,170	75,170	75,170
Suffolk	357,869	519,886	356,984	356,984	356,984	356,984	304,845	304,845	304,845
Surrey	433,308	886,970	596,398	596,398	596,398	596,398	596,398	596,398	614,240
Warwickshire	1,498,412	1,498,412	1,498,412	1,498,412	1,498,412	1,498,412	1,249,272	1,124,701	1,000,131
West Sussex	312,228	571,061	430,072	430,072	430,072	430,072	321,352	321,352	321,352
	139,274,586	162,946,443	153,907,740	155,878,916	155,892,817	162,128,510	168,595,841	173,631,602	178,625,674

[1] From 1999-2000 to 2005-06 figures include contributions from local authorities. From 2006-07 the grant has been fully paid by the Government.

Primary Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure allocated per child to primary schools is *(a)* in Bournemouth and *(b)* at Townsend School, Bournemouth in 2007-08. [193033]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The average per pupil figure in 2007-08 for Bournemouth local authority was £3,075 and for Townsend School it was £4,592.

Young People: Skin Piercing

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there is an obligation to obtain parental consent before providing a *(a)* child and *(b)* young person with a body piercing in a commercial setting. [178634]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

There is no statutory age of consent for cosmetic piercing (cosmetic body piercing and ear piercing). Cosmetic piercing of a minor is lawful provided valid consent is given. A minor is able to give valid consent if he or she is capable of understanding the nature and consequences of the act to be done. Furthermore, the courts have held that a parent's right to decide on behalf of his or her child yields to the child's valid consent.

Cosmetic body piercing for sexual gratification is unlawful. Children under the age of 16 are not able to consent lawfully to a piercing that would be regarded as indecent assault. Genital or nipple piercing performed on someone under the age of 16 might be regarded as indecent assault under sexual offences legislation, depending on the facts of the case.

Guidance on issues relating to the age of consent for cosmetic piercing is contained in the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Local Authority Circular (LAC) 76/2: "Enforcement of skin piercing activities". This guidance recommends that businesses are advised to adopt reasonable age restrictions and involve parents where appropriate. The guidance is available on the HSE website at:

www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/76-2.htm

Copies have been placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* criteria and *(b)* other factors will be used in ranking geographical areas as potential hotspots for alcohol problems; and what scoring system will be applied in making that ranking. [193427]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government will be working with police, local authorities and other stakeholders to develop tools to help local enforcement agencies better identify problem areas and premises. Ultimately such decisions have to be made locally using local knowledge.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many businesses have had a licence to serve alcohol in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192902]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 which came into force on November 2005, data on the number of liquor licences issued under the Licensing Act 1964 (the 1964 Act) in England and Wales was collected by petty sessional divisions (magistrates courts areas) on a triennial basis. The last set of data relating to the 1964 Act was published in 2004. It is not possible to break this number down by constituency areas. The data for petty sessional divisions in Yorkshire and Humberside are set out in the table.

	Number
Humberside	
Beverley and the Wold	418
Bridlington	377
Gould and Howdenshire	128
Grimsby and Cleethorpes	365
Hull and Holderness	757
North Lincolnshire	417
North Yorkshire	
Harrogate	598
Northallerton and Richmond	589
Scarborough	1,069
Selby	257
Skipton	273
York	681
South Yorkshire	
Barnsley District	611
Doncaster	645
Rotherham	592
Sheffield	1,277
West Yorkshire	
Bately and Dewsbury	495
Bradford	869
Calderdale	588
Huddersfield	811
Keighley	595
Leeds District	2,278
Pontefract	394
Wakefield	522

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003, published on 8 November 2007, shows the number of licences granted between April 2006 and March 2007 broken down by licensing authorities. These include licences for on-sales or supply of alcohol only, off-sales of alcohol only and both on and off sales or supply of alcohol. The data for Yorkshire and the Humber are in the table.

Premises licences and club premises certificates by licensable activity authorised in force on 31 March 2007

	Number
Barnsley	597
Bradford	1,109
Calderdale	590
Craven	237
Doncaster[1]	—
East Riding of Yorkshire[1]	—
Hambleton[1]	—
Harrogate	432
Hull	637
Kirklees	914
Leeds	2,152
North East Lincolnshire	426
North Lincolnshire[1]	—
Richmondshire	284
Rotherham	—
Ryedale	249
Scarborough[1]	—
Selby	285
Sheffield[1]	—
Wakefield	723
York[1]	—

[1] Data not supplied.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a yellow card will be issued automatically for a breach of the terms of an alcohol licence; and whether such warnings will replace other sanctions. [193428]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It would be for the licensing authority to decide whether to issue the equivalent of a yellow card at the end of a review hearing, if necessary for the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. This approach will not replace existing sanctions, but would propose a range of measures appropriate to the nature of the breach incurred.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensees have had their licences revoked for selling alcohol to under-age people *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times and *(d)* on four or more occasions. [193429]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

The Licensing Act 2003 introduced new procedures to allow premises licences to be reviewed where problems occur, including the illegal sales of alcohol to children. The review process allows a range of actions, including licence suspension and revocation; there were 675 reviews in England and Wales in 2006-07 (based on information provided by 85 per cent. of licensing authorities response rate) which resulted in 92 licences being revoked and 91 being suspended. Premises licences may be revoked for a number of reasons or a variety of factors, including sales to children.

There were also 37 personal licences suspended, revoked of forfeited in 2006-07 (80 per cent. response rate). The loss of personal licence could relate to conviction for any one of a number of relevant offences, including the sale of alcohol to children.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensees in north Kent have had their licence to sell alcohol revoked for selling alcohol to under 18 year olds in each of the last five years. [191416]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 which came into force on 25 November 2005, data on the number of liquor licences issued under the Licensing Act 1964 (the 1964 Act) in England and Wales were collected by petty sessional divisions (magistrates courts areas), on a three yearly basis. The last set of data relating to the 1964 Act covered the triennial renewal process in 2004 when 354 premises had their licences revoked in England and Wales. These data do not indicate the reason for revocation which could include premises having simply ceased trading. These data are not available broken down by region.

The Licensing Act 2003 introduced new procedures to allow licences to be reviewed where problems occur, including the illegal sales of alcohol to children. The review process allows a range of actions, including licence suspension and revocation; there were 675 reviews in England and Wales in 2006-07.

The first Statistical Bulletin on licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 was published on 8 November 2007. The following table gives information on the number of licences revoked by all Kent licensing authorities, although it does not give information on why they were revoked nor the proportion of those revoked licences that included a permission to sell alcohol.

Licensing authority	*Total completed reviews*	*No action taken*	*Operating hours modified*	*Licensable activity partially restricted*	*Licensable activity completely excluded*	*Other conditions added or modified*	*Designated premises supervisor removed (premises licences only)*	*Licence or certificate suspended*	*Licence revoked or club premises certificate withdrawn*
Ashford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	3	0	3	1	1	3	0	0	0
Dartford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gravesham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medway	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sevenoaks	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Shepway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swale[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thanet	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonbridge and Malling	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tunbridge Wells	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

[1] Data not supplied

Alliance for the Arts in Criminal Justice

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to establish the Alliance for the Arts in Criminal Justice; what funding he plans to allocate to the body; and if he will make a statement. [192448]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are supporting the development of an independent Arts Alliance as a representative voice for the arts sector working with offenders to support rehabilitation and reduce re-offending.

An Arts Forum will be also set up to facilitate discussions between the Arts Alliance and other stakeholders such as Government Departments and the Arts Council, in developing the role of arts in supporting offender management.

The Ministry of Justice, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Arts Council have agreed, in principle, to fund the development of the alliance. We are in the process of agreeing the sum of funding available.

Arts Council of England: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the impact of Arts Council England's regional theatre policy on theatres in the East Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [192578]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* My Department has made no recent assessment of the impact of Arts Council England's regional theatre policy on theatres in the East Midlands.

Arts Council England's research shows that at least 518,781 people attended performances at ACE funded theatres in the East Midlands in 2006-07, including 61,933 young people. This represents a 38 per cent. increase in total audience figures on the previous year and over 100 per cent. increase in the number of young people accessing performances.

Arts Council of England: Public Appointments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* national and *(b)* regional council members of Arts Council England are required to declare recent party political activity prior to appointment. [192165]

Margaret Hodge: National members and regional chairs of ACE are asked to provide details of political activity undertaken in the past five years when applying for appointment. This is in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

There is no written requirement that regional council members should declare recent party political activity prior to appointment, other than the chair of the Council who also sits on the national Arts Council.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided for cultural observatories in each English region in each of the last three years. [191888]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* My Department has not provided any funding for the regional cultural observatories in the last three years.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding regional cultural consortiums provided to cultural observatories in each English region in each of the last three years. [191890]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The regional cultural consortiums have provided the following funding to the cultural observatories in their regions in each of the last three years.

			Funding (£000)
Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East	0	0	0
South-east	39	25	32
North-east	0	0	5
North-west	40	40	31
Yorkshire and Humber	15	15	5
East midlands	0	0	5
South-west	36	28	14
West midlands	6	19	14

In some cases, the consortiums have also secured additional funding for the observatories from their regional partners.

British Olympic Association

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance the British Olympic Association has issued to athletes on managing questions on political issues *(a)* preceding and *(b)* during the Beijing Olympic games. [192070]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* This is a matter for the British Olympic Association (BOA). The BOA is independent of Government and it is therefore not appropriate for Government to answer on their behalf.

Casinos

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether local authorities will have a role in deciding the opening hours of the casinos they license. [191879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Gambling Act 2005 (Mandatory and Default Conditions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, default conditions attaching to casino premises licences state that no facilities for gambling shall be provided on the premises between the hours of 6 am and noon on any day.

Casino operators can apply to their licensing authority to vary these hours. This is a matter for individual licensing authorities to determine.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192516]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no appeals to the Civil Service Appeal Board by employees of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport or the Royal Parks Agency in the last 10 years.

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, on the Convergence Think Tank, when he intends to send the list of invitees to the Convergence Think Tank seminars to the hon. Member for Wantage, and to deposit the list in the Library. [192268]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* A list of invitees for the first Convergence Think Tank seminar held on 7 February 2008 has now been sent to the hon. Member for Wantage, and deposited in the Library. The Department will send invitee lists for future seminars after they have taken place.

Departmental Correspondence

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average time taken by his Department was to respond to letters from hon. Members in the latest period for which figures are available. [192741]

Andy Burnham: We do not hold this information in the format requested.

In the 2007 calendar year, DCMS received 4,726 letters that required a response from hon. Members and peers. 76.87 per cent. of these were answered within 20 working days of receipt.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191779]

Margaret Hodge: My Department *(a)* follows the ICRA guidelines for its main website:

www.culture.gov.uk

and *(b)* displays the ICRA label on the website.

My Department will review the use of ICRA on its smaller websites.

Departmental Meetings

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings he has held since taking office; and what was discussed at each meeting. [192903]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings. A list of Ministers meetings with external stakeholders is regularly published on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Departmental Official Visits

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many official ministerial visits he has made since taking office; and what the purpose was of each such visit. [192742]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Since taking up office, I have made 21 official ministerial visits to discuss current issues with people working in the policy areas covered by my Department and to see a range of cultural and sporting events.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public appointments he has made in the last 12 months; and to which positions those appointments were made. [190137]

Andy Burnham: Together with the ministerial team in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Secretary of State has made 100 public appointments in the 12 months to 25 February 2008. We have also recommended 32 candidates to the Prime Minister, and one to Her Majesty the Queen, for appointment during this period, all of whom have been appointed.

The total number of appointments is 133, including reappointments, and the positions to which the appointments were made are shown in the table.

Name of public body	*Title of role*	*Appointing authority*	*Number*
Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites	Member	Secretary of State	3
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	Commissioners	Secretary of State	8
English Heritage	Commissioners	Secretary of State	5
	Chair		1
Historic Royal Palaces	Trustees	Secretary of State	3
Arts Council England	Member	Secretary of State	1
	Chair		1
Theatres Trust	Trustees	Secretary of State	6
Sianel 4 Cymraeg	Members	Secretary of State	3
National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts	Trustees	Secretary of State	3
	Chair		1
UK Film Council	Members	Secretary of State	3
Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art	Members	Secretary of State	3
Spoliation Advisory Panel	Members	Secretary of State	6
Treasure Valuation Committee	Member	Secretary of State	1
Gambling Commission	Commissioners	Secretary of State	5
	Chair		1
Horserace Totalisator	Members	Secretary of State	2
National Lottery Commission	Commissioners	Secretary of State	4
Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection	Members	Secretary of State	4
	Chair		1
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	Chair	Secretary of State	1
Culture East Midlands	Chair	Secretary of State	1
Culture South West	Chair	Secretary of State	1
Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships	Member	Secretary of State	1
Advisory Council on Libraries	Members	Secretary of State	2
British Library	Members	Secretary of State	8
Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust	Trustee	Secretary of State	1
Imperial War Museum	Trustee	Secretary of State	1
Legal Deposit Advisory Panel	Member	Secretary of State	1
Museum of Science and Industry	Chair	Secretary of State	1
National Museums Liverpool	Trustee	Secretary of State	1
	Chair		1
Public Lending Right Advisory Committee	Chair	Secretary of State	1
Royal Armouries	Members	Secretary of State	2
	Chair		1
Football Licensing Authority	Member	Secretary of State	1
Olympic Delivery Authority	Chair	Secretary of State	1

Name of public body	*Title of role*	*Appointing authority*	*Number*
Sport England	Members	Secretary of State	6
England Marketing Advisory Board	Trustees	Secretary of State	3
National Heritage Memorial Fund	Trustees	Prime Minister	2
British Museum	Trustees	Prime Minister	4
Museum of London	Governors	Prime Minister	2
National Gallery	Trustee	Prime Minister	1
National Maritime Museum	Trustees	Prime Minister	2
National Museum of Science and Industry	Trustees	Prime Minister	5
National Portrait Gallery	Trustee	Prime Minister	1
	Deputy Chair		1
Natural History Museum	Trustee	Prime Minister	1
Tate Gallery	Trustees	Prime Minister	3
Victoria and Albert Museum	Trustees	Prime Minister	3
	Chair		1
Wallace Collection	Trustees	Prime Minister	6
BBC Trust	Chair	Her Majesty the Queen	1

Departmental Sick Leave

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W, on departmental sick leave, for what reasons the percentage of working days lost attributed to stress in 2006-07 differs from the figure of 27 per cent. of working days lost attributed to mental disorders (stress) in the Cabinet Office Analysis of Sickness Absence Report for 2006-07. [191881]

Margaret Hodge: The 27 per cent. figure published on the Cabinet Office Analysis of Sickness Absence report for 2006-07, was on working days lost due to mental disorders. According to Annex G of the report it includes not only stress but other ailments such as mental and behavioural disorders, disorders of the personality and behaviour; mood affective disorders, neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders.

The 13 per cent. answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W, was on working days lost that were attributable only to stress.

Written Questions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the average time taken by his Department to give a substantive answer to ordinary written questions has been in Session 2007-08; [192806]

(2) what percentage of named day questions were given a substantive answer by his Department on the named day since October 2007. [192856]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* 43 per cent. of named day questions tabled to my Department between 1 October 2007 and 29 February 2008 were given a substantive answer on the named day. This figure includes named day questions answered by the Minister for the Olympics.

Information on the average number of days taken to answer ordinary written questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Great Leighs Racecourse: Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that there is open competition for on-course betting pitches at Great Leighs Racecourse; and if he will make a statement. [192841]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The allocation of on-course bookmakers' pitches on new racecourses, such as Great Leighs, is a matter for commercial negotiations between the racecourse and the bookmakers, and is not a matter for the Government.

However, we are confident that racecourses will want to ensure that pitches are allocated in a fair manner, allowing all on-course bookmakers an equal opportunity to apply to operate from these pitches.

Hotels: Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of *(a)* hotels, *(b)* guesthouses and *(c)* bed and breakfasts were accredited in (i) England and (ii) London in each of the last five years. [187492]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* My Department does not maintain a central record of accredited holiday accommodation.

However VisitBritain administers a voluntary National Quality Accreditation Scheme (NQAS) and in 2007, it commissioned an accommodation census aimed at measuring the levels of hotels, bed and breakfasts and guest houses across the United Kingdom.

The information provided by the 2007 census indicated 50 per cent. of holiday accommodation in the United Kingdom had been assessed as part of the NQAS.

In 2006, Visit London undertook a comprehensive survey of the holiday accommodation in London boroughs and this showed that only 34 per cent. of the capital's accommodation providers (having 47 per cent. of total rooms) participate in NQAS.

Local Authorities

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings he has held with representatives of local authorities since his appointment; and with which local authorities. [193381]

Andy Burnham: I have met with representatives of Sunderland city council at a recent trip to the North East. I will also be speaking at the Local Government Association Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference on 14 March 2008 in Liverpool.

Classical Music

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support live classical music. [192418]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 March 2008]*: Government investment and support for classical music is channelled through Arts Council England.

In 2007-08 Arts Council investment in England's eight key symphony orchestras totalled over £15.5 million and support for chamber orchestras and contemporary music groups over £2 million.

Arts Council support for opera in this period totalled over £35 million. In addition, the Royal Opera House received £26,252,600 which contributes to both opera and ballet.

National Lottery: Swimming

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what projects funding from the lottery for swimming has been spent since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [192778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England lottery funding for swimming pools has contributed to a total of 169 projects between 1997 and 2008. Of these awards; 90 were made to local authorities; 38 were made to the Amateur Swimming Association; 11 were made direct to swimming clubs; with the remaining 30 made to other community and educational organisations.

UK Sport has provided lottery funding for the World Class Performance Programme of the aquatic sports; swimming, disabled swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo, providing dedicated support to athletes in their ambition to win medals at World, European, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In addition UK Sport through its World Class Events Programme made lottery awards to the following major events:

	Event
2003	European Junior Swimming and Diving Championships
2007	LENS European Nations Trophy (Water Polo)
2007	FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup
2007	FINA Diving World Series
2008	FINA Diving World Series
2008	World Short Course Swimming Championships

National Lottery: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding was awarded to organisations in Tamworth constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last five years for which figures are available. [193603]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the calendar year 1997, the Tamworth constituency received £854,082 in grants from the National Lottery Distributing Bodies.

Financial year	*Total value of grants (£)*
2002-03	756,338
2003-04	621,026
2004-05	52,414
2005-06	751,269
2006-07	72,537

The information is location specific. That is the list includes only grants that are specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

Orford Park Project

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the Orford Park Project. [193380]

Andy Burnham: I have received representations from my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington, North (Helen Jones) on the Orford Park project.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months.[1] [191022]

Margaret Hodge: In the last 24 months, my Department has purchased one plasma television screen at a cost of £8,014.68 excluding VAT (£9,417.25 including VAT). The cost covered purchase and installation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Abbott Mead Vickers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many contracts there were between his Department and Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose of each was. [192046]

Mr. Watson: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 2MC.]*

Cabinet Papers: Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what requests the Prime Minister's Office has received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the release of Cabinet minutes; and what response was made to each request. [191457]

Edward Miliband: The information requested cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Charities: Political Activities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable is for the Charity Commission's issue of a new edition of its CC9 guidance on campaigning and political activity by charities. [191099]

Phil Hope: The Charity Commission's revised guidance "CC9 - Campaigning and Political Activities by Charities" was published on 6 March and is available on its website at:

http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc9.asp

I have placed a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Charity Commission: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-37WS, on the departmental expenditure limit (2007-08), for what reasons the Charity Commission's departmental expenditure limit was increased by £2.8 million. [191147]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the independent Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The Chief Executive of the Charity Commission will write to the right hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Civil Service

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate his Department has made of the number of staff in the Civil Service who are classified as without posts. [191501]

Mr. Watson: The reduction of posts within the civil service is an issue for individual Departments and agencies. Staff are actively managed in accordance with their Department's policies and practices and taking into account the cross civil service protocols on handling surplus staff.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which of his Department's initiatives were advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was in each year. [192229]

Mr. Watson: I refer to the answers given by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Murphy) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 39-40W, and to the reply given by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1822-23W.

The only Cabinet Office initiative advertised since these answers was the recent campaign to encourage the nomination of 'everyday heroes' for honours, the advertising cost of which was £137,852.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192053]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Residences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W, on ministerial residences, what the value is of each property. [192842]

Mr. Watson: Information on capital values of freehold properties is included in the National Asset Register 2007, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Public Appointments

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to increase the scrutiny of public appointments; and if he will make a statement. [192764]

Mr. Watson: "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper sets out the Government's proposals for improving the public appointments process. This includes a specific proposal to increase parliamentary scrutiny of public appointments by introducing pre-appointment hearings by parliamentary Select Committees for certain key posts. The Government set out more detail of the proposal in a letter to the Chair of the Liaison Committee on 23 January 2008. Copies of the letter are in the Library of the House. The Liaison Committee published their response on 5 March 2008. The Government are currently considering the response and will reply in due course.

Voluntary Organisations: Contracts

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in Norwich North that are three-year contracts; [191920]

(2) what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in Norwich North are awarded three-year contracts. [191921]

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what progress has been made towards ensuring that third sector organisations providing services in Eastbourne are awarded three-year contracts; [192017]

(2) what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in Eastbourne have been three-year contracts. [192018]

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in Peterborough are three-year contracts; [192131]

(2) what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in Peterborough are awarded three-year contracts. [192132]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in North West Cambridgeshire that are three year contracts; [192671]

(2) what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in North West Cambridgeshire are awarded three-year contracts. [192672]

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what progress has been made towards engaging third sector organisations providing publicly-funded services in Castle Point on three-year contracts; [192934]

(2) what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide publicly-funded services in Castle Point are three-year contracts. [192935]

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made towards ensuring that third sector organisations which provide services in South Ribble are awarded three year contracts; and what proportion were awarded three-year contracts in 2006-07. [192812]

Phil Hope: This Government are committed to ensuring that three-year funding for third sector organisations becomes the norm rather than the exception. I will be reporting on Government progress in meeting this funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three year funding from 2009 onwards.

The information requested is currently not recorded centrally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Caribbean: Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the itinerary is for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's official visit to the Caribbean in March 2008; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location is of each official engagement during the visit; which countries included in the itinerary His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will be visiting as Heir Apparent to that country; and how many officials are expected to participate in the visit at public expense. [190779]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Trinidad and Tobago from 3 to 6 March, St. Lucia on 7 March, and Montserrat on 8 March and will visit Jamaica on 12 to 14 March.

The objective of the visit is to reinforce ties with the Commonwealth Caribbean. Numerous engagements are planned, but as examples, in Trinidad and Tobago, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales undertook engagements related to crime and security; in St. Lucia engagements related to the environment, trade and investment; in Montserrat engagements related to environment and a visit to a community centre; and in Jamaica His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will undertake engagements relating to urban regeneration and climate security. For security reasons programme details, including times and locations, are not made public before a visit takes place. I shall write to my hon. Friend with the programme when the official visit to the Caribbean has finished.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is in line to be the next Head of State of St. Lucia, Montserrat and Jamaica.

Their Royal Highnesses are being accompanied by 14 members of their staff. In addition between three and 14 members of our respective High Commissions/Governor's office are participating in the visit.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189783]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to helping its staff maintain a healthy work/life balance. We encourage staff and their managers to think creatively about flexible work patterns, including remote working.

The FCO does not compile or hold data centrally on the number of staff who work from home. Such arrangements are agreed locally between staff and their managers.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [188051]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Government Hospitality Team is responsible for official hospitality at ministerial level across Whitehall. In the financial year 2006-07 Government Hospitality spent a total of £809,529.40 in direct charges to suppliers. This was divided between general catering charges, including food, staff, flowers, provision of sound equipment and alcohol as follows:

Catering costs: £700,814.16

Wine Cellar costs: £108,715.24

Officials across the FCO, both at home and overseas, commit expenditure on entertainment of official contacts in line with the FCO's objectives. This expenditure includes the costs of food, drink and sundries when official contacts are entertained at an officer's home or at an external venue. This expenditure is not broken down into the requested categories, and to obtain this information would require analysis of each individual invoice. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187912]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs temporary agency staff for a variety of reasons, for example to complete a specific project, fill an advisory role on an ad hoc basis, or to cover an existing slot that could not be filled internally.

The FCO uses various agencies under the national framework for temporary staff. Most of these are for the supply of Administrative Officer (FCO grade A2) staff in central London. Rates vary according to the length of assignment and skill-set required. Information dating back to 1999 is not held centrally. However, the following table shows the hourly average rates agreed with the agencies used by the FCO since 2004.

These agreed rates are indicative and are issued to guide hiring managers across the FCO to whom responsibility for recruitment of temporary staff has been devolved. As a result the FCO cannot confirm actual average fees paid without incurring disproportionate cost.

£

Agency	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Top three				
The Eclipse Organisation	12.48	13.90	13.90	13.90
Manpower	11.56	11.82	11.82	12.66
Select Appointments plc	n/a	15.49	15.49	17.24
Average	n/a	13.74	13.74	14.60
Others used by FCO				
Adecco UK Ltd	n/a	n/a	17.50	n/a
Hays	16.46	16.83	16.83	n/a
Kelly	n/a	14.90	14.90	n/a
Average	n/a	n/a	16.41	n/a
Average of all	n/a	n/a	15.07	n/a

Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190298]

Meg Munn: The information requested by the hon. Member is provided in the following table.

	Foreign and Commonwealth Office named day written PQs	*Number receiving a holding answer*	*Number receiving a substantive answer*
2001-2002	1,043	189	854
2002-2003	591	151	440
2003-2004	548	162	386
2004-2005	487	186	301
2005-2006	788	183	605
2006-2007	672	119	553
2007-2008[1]	386	84	302

[1] Data available so far this parliamentary session.

Ecuador: Foreign Relations

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Colombia's incursion into Ecuador; and what response he has made to the Organisation of American States declaration of 5 March on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ecuador. [193334]

Meg Munn: In discussions with Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela and other international partners since the events of 1 March, we have expressed our concern about the growing tension and deployment of armed forces along the Colombian border. We have urged all parties to show restraint, to avoid any further escalation of the situation, and to seek, through dialogue, a political solution.

We welcome the outcome of the meeting of the Rio Group Summit in Santa Domingo on 7 March that has diffused tensions between the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, which with other members of the Rio Group reiterated a commitment to peaceful co-operation in the region. We also welcome the initiation of a process through the Organisation of American States (OAS), including a commission to report to the scheduled meeting of OAS Foreign Ministers on 17 March.

We hope that all partners in the region can work positively together to eradicate the activity and influence of illegal terrorist groups, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, while ensuring that measures taken by states to combat terrorism are legal, proportionate and justifiable.

Eritrea: Ethiopia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea; and what steps the UK is proposing to reduce tensions. [186870]

David Miliband: The Government are concerned at the tense security situation on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border. The tension is exacerbated by the large numbers of military forces deployed on both sides of the border, the incursion into the Temporary Security Zone by Eritrean armed forces, the restrictions imposed on the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the failure of Ethiopia and Eritrea to agree to re-activate the work of the Military Coordination Commission and the absence of any progress by Ethiopia and Eritrea towards agreeing a lasting settlement to their conflict, as they committed to do when they signed the Algiers Agreements of 2000.

We support the efforts of the UN with the parties, including the UN Security Council. We fully support UN Security Council Resolution 1798, adopted unanimously on 30 January 2008, and expect the parties to implement fully all its provisions, including, those elements relating to showing maximum restraints, refraining from any threat or use of force, avoiding provocative military activities and hostile statements, co-operating with UNMEE and returning to 16 December 2004 levels of military deployment.

European Commission: Greater London

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the European Commission on its representative office for the European Commission in London. [191934]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have received no representations from the European Commission on its representative office for the European Commission in London.

International Cooperation: Human Rights

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to propose the inclusion of the UN holocaust education department on the preparatory committee for the Durban II conference at the Geneva preparatory committee of April 2008. [191577]

Meg Munn: The Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference is comprised of UN member states (as for other UN meetings). Non-governmental organisations, and UN Specialised Agencies, funds and programmes can observe in accordance with UN practice. The UN Secretariat—of which the holocaust and the UN Outreach Programme is a part—would not normally participate in the Committee's deliberations in its own right.

As stated in the response I gave to my hon. Friend on 28 February2008, *Official Report*, columns 1822-23W, the Government will seek opportunities with our EU partners to give holocaust education and remembrance appropriate attention as negotiations continue. As the preparatory process for the Durban Review Conference unfolds, we would expect input from all parts of the UN system that deals with issues relevant to the Conference.

Iran: Banks

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps will be taken by UK authorities as a result of the inclusion of Iranian banks Melli and Mellat in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008); and if he will make a statement; [192787]

(2) what steps the Government plan to take to exercise vigilance over the activities of financial institutions in the UK with all banks domiciled in Iran, as required in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008). [192786]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

In October 2007 HM Treasury, following agreement by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), advised the financial sector to consider applying increased scrutiny and due diligence to transactions associated with Iran due to deficiencies in Iran's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regimes. We reiterated this on 29 February 2008 following a second FATF statement.

On 4 March 2008 HM Treasury published a notice on its website again advising caution and alerting the UK financial sector to the financial measures in UN Security Council Resolution 1803, which mentions banks Melli and Sanderat. The notice is available at <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/9/C/fin_sanctions_iran_notification_040308.pdf>

The UK also monitors the activities of UK financial institutions with all banks domiciled in Iran, in accordance with its international commitments.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the possible links between Iranian banks Melli and Mellat, including their branches and subsidiaries abroad, and activities contributing to proliferation sensitive activities in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [192788]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Banks Melli and Saderat, rather than Melli and Mellat, are mentioned in the text of UN Security Council Resolution 1803.

The UK shares the concerns of the UN Security Council about bank Melli's and bank Saderat's links to the Iranian nuclear and missile programmes. The Security Council has called upon all states to exercise vigilance over the banks to prevent Iran from proliferating nuclear sensitive material. The UK continues to monitor banks Melli and Saderat in accordance with its international commitments.

Israel: Official Visits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the seminar on stem cell research being organised by the British Embassy in Israel on 26 and 27 March 2008 will cost; who has been invited to *(a)* speak and *(b)* attend; what criteria were used in selecting speakers for this seminar; whether speakers at the seminar will be paid (i) travelling expenses, (ii) travel time, (iii) accommodation expenses and (iv) a speaker's fee; if he will place in the Library material produced for the seminar by the British Embassy; how many staff in the British Embassy will (A) attend and (B) participate; how much was spent on advertising this seminar; whether there are any restrictions on those persons wishing to attend this seminar; and if he will make a statement. [189011]

Meg Munn: The seminar is entitled "Stem Cell Research—Social and Ethical issues" and has a budget of £15,500. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has invited Dr. Lyle Armstrong, Sir Martin Evans (not yet confirmed), Dr. Chris Mason, the noble Lord Patel and Professor Andrew Webster to speak at the seminar. Researchers and students in the biomedical areas, clinicians, physicians, regulators, philosophers and the general public will be invited to attend.

In order to select speakers our Embassy consulted the following stakeholders:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Science and Innovation Group);

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority;

Sciencewise;

UK Stem Cell Network; and

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Speakers will be paid travelling and accommodation expenses. Speakers will not be paid for travel time or a fee. A report on the seminar will be written and placed in the Library of the House.

Two officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv will attend as participants. No funds have been spent on advertising and there are no restrictions on who can attend the seminar—it is open to all.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the power-sharing agreement brokered in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [192211]

Meg Munn: We welcome the power-sharing agreement signed by President Kibaki and Raila Odinga on 28 February 2008. We consider that it provides a strong foundation on which to bring Kenya back to the path to prosperity, democracy and stability. The imperative is for Kenya's leaders to implement the agreement in full and to build up a sense of national reconciliation. The UK is committed to supporting Kenya and its people in doing so.

I am placing copies of the documents in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what follow-up mechanisms have been agreed for the implementation of the agreement of the principles of partnership of the coalition government in Kenya; and what role the UK will play in those mechanisms. [192245]

David Miliband: In order to implement their power-sharing agreement, Kenya's leaders are committed to a number of important new mechanisms. These include both transitional constitutional arrangements, such as the office of Prime Minister, and others such as a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, a Commission of Enquiry on Post Election Violence and an independent Review Committee on the 2007 elections. The international community, including the UK, strongly supports the terms of the agreement as the basis on which Kenya can return to the path of prosperity, democracy, and stability. We are committed to lending our support to the development of robust mechanisms to deliver reconciliation and reform.

Pakistan: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK diplomats and civil servants are working in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Japan. [192209]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs 128 UK civil servants (from both the diplomatic and home civil service) at its posts in Pakistan and 41 in Japan.

Public Access

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place for members of the public to visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and on how many occasions in the last 12 months such visits took place. [191974]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) participates each year in Open House London Weekend, organised by the Open House architectural and educational charity. The Historic Fine Rooms are open to the public throughout the weekend from 10 am to 5 pm. No advance booking is necessary and there are no restrictions on numbers.

In 2007, Open House London Weekend took place on 15 to 16 September, where almost 7,000 people visited the FCO.

The FCO also manages an informal programme of guided tours for members of accredited societies and organisations. These tours are carried out by volunteer members of staff in addition to their existing roles. Given this, and that the Fine Rooms are in continual official use, opportunities for these tours are limited. During the last 12 months, we offered 25 such tours. As there is now a three year waiting list, we have temporarily suspended further bookings.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged US bombing of Dhoble in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [192210]

Meg Munn: We have received no further reports of this incident. Government policy towards Somalia will continue, together with the international community, to work for improvements in the inter-linked political, security and humanitarian tracks.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the full deployment of the African Union mission to Somalia; and what assessment has been made of the impact that the deployment has had on the security situation in the country. [192026]

Meg Munn: The African Union mission to Somalia currently consists of approximately 1,600 Ugandan troops and 300 Burundian troops. The Burundians are bringing their contingent up to one full battalion and have committed a further battalion, which they intend to deploy within the next few months once it is fully equipped. Nigeria is due to send an advance reconnaissance party to Somalia during March to prepare for their deployment of one battalion.

The additional troops will take the total strength of the African Union mission to approximately 4,000, enabling the mission to expand operations to a larger area of Mogadishu.

The mission has contributed to the security of Mogadishu by patrolling parts of the city and securing the airport, sea port and the President's residence (Villa Somalia). It has also provided a valuable contribution to the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Somalia: Police

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK and EU support for the UN Rule of Law programme for training Somalian civilian police officers; and how many Somalian police officers have been trained as a result of this programme. [192025]

Meg Munn: Between 2006 and 2008, the UK, through the Department for International Development (DfID), has committed £6 million to the UN Development Programme Rule of Law and Security Programme for Somalia, including Somaliland. DfID funds, together with those of the European Commission and the Governments of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Italy and the US, support five programme areas: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration; Law Enforcement; Strengthening of the Judiciary; Gender and Human Rights; and Mine Action.

The Law Enforcement component of the programme has trained 3,410 police officers. Of these, 2,410 are deployed in South-Central Somalia and Puntland and 1,000 are deployed in Somaliland.

Sudan: Arms Control

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of regional compliance with the UN arms embargo on Darfur; and whether plans are being considered to extend the embargo to the whole of Sudan. [192022]

Meg Munn: The UN Panel of Experts, established by UN Security Council Resolution 1591, is responsible for monitoring the arms embargo on Darfur. In its latest report, published on 3 October 2007, the panel established that violations of the arms embargo continued, both by the Government of Sudan and non-state armed groups, during the period of the report, from 29 September 2006 to 29 August 2007. The panel reported that weapons, specifically heavy weapons (artillery pieces), small arms, ammunition and other military equipment were entering the Darfur states in breach of the embargo from several countries including regional neighbours.

The UK proposed in the UN Sanctions Committee of 6 November 2007 to extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agree. We will continue to press for an extension of the arms embargo. The EU has implemented an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan via Common Position 2005/411/CFSP, adopted 30 May 2005.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what grounds troop contributions to UNAMID from *(a)* Norway and *(b)* Sweden were refused by the government of Sudan; and whether any other contributions from countries on the list sent by the United Nations and the African Union to the government of Sudan in October 2007 have been rejected. [192021]

Meg Munn: Sweden and Norway announced in a joint press statement on 9 January 2008 that they were withdrawing their offer to provide a 350 strong engineering battalion to the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) because of Sudan's continued refusal to accept the offer.

The Government of Sudan have not provided a formal reply to the list of troop contributing countries that the AU and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed last autumn, including any specific grounds for refusing the offers from Sweden and Norway. More generally, the Government of Sudan have said there is no need for non-African troop contributions in UNAMID on the grounds that African countries have offered sufficient contributions. Discussions on deployment continue between the UN, AU and the Government of Sudan.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in appointing a Joint United Nations-African Union Chief Mediator for Darfur; what the mandate of the envoy will be; and when he or she is expected to be in post. [192023]

Meg Munn: We understand that discussions are continuing between the UN and African Union (AU) on the appointment of a Joint UN-AU Chief Mediator who would work to the AU and UN Special Envoys for the Darfur Political Process, Mr. Jan Eliasson and Mr. Salim Salim. Until a Joint Chief Mediator is in place, the current AU and UN negotiators remain in place, working to the Special Envoys.

Zimbabwe: EC External Relations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress made in securing the appointment of an EU envoy to Zimbabwe. [192912]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 October 2007, Foreign Ministers agreed to appoint an envoy to investigate and report back on the situation in Zimbabwe. The envoy was subsequently appointed., and has since conducted a fact-finding visit to the African Union in Addis Ababa and the Southern African region, and delivered a report to the EU on the situation.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions are in place for international monitoring of the 29 March elections in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [192910]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* International monitoring of the forthcoming Zimbabwean elections will play a key role in determining whether they meet international norms and standards, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the Southern African Development Community principles and guidelines concerning elections, to which Zimbabwe is a signatory. The Government of Zimbabwe have stated that organisations may only observe the elections by invitation. A number of organisations, including the Southern African Development Community governments, have been invited to send observation teams. Regrettably, invitations have not been extended to a number of countries and a range of major democratic institutions, including the EU. We are concerned that this will constrain the ability of the international community to assess the conduct and outcome of the elections.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 226W, on Zimbabwe: Politics and Government, whether he has made proposals to members of the South African Development Community Initiative to take forward the mediation between the Government and Opposition parties in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [193018]

Meg Munn: Our high commissions and embassies in the region are in regular contact with members of the Southern African Development Community. They urge them particularly to use what influence they have to ensure the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe meet international standards, including the Southern African Development Community guidelines and principles on elections.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to extend the EU travel ban and assets freeze to the families of the 130 Zimbabweans currently listed under the EU's Common Position; and if he will make a statement. [192909]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Family members of the 131 persons currently on the EU Common Position are not included unless they have positions within the elite of the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe in their own right. If we are made aware of information which suggests family members are either personally culpable of specific abuses or are using their position to circumvent the assets freeze under the EU Common Position, we will act on those reports and if necessary suggest those persons be targeted under the EU Common Position.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum claimants and *(b)* dependants of asylum claimants were granted leave to remain in the October 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise; which 40 nationalities received the most grants of indefinite leave to remain; and when the final grants were made to conclude the exercise.[1] [177410]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Information on the dependants of asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is not available and could only be obtained by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 6MC.]*

Information on the 40 nationalities that received the most grants of indefinite leave to remain is in the following table.

The Border and Immigration Agency is no longer reporting on the performance of the Family ILR exercise. The small number of remaining cases are being processed with other legacy cases, not as a separate workstream, and will be reported on as part of normal business.

Grants of ILR issued under the Family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007[1,2,3], excluding dependants

Country of nationality	*Total*
Serbia and Montenegro	3,960
Sri Lanka	1,965
Turkey	1,775
Pakistan	1,245
Nigeria	1,175
Dem. Rep. Congo	955
Colombia	720
Afghanistan	710
Kenya	700
Ecuador	685
Ghana	620
Somalia	600
Poland	580
China	570
Iran	470
Sierra Leone	415
India	395
Lithuania	380
Uganda	375
Croatia	360
Angola	345
Albania	345
Iraq	295
Algeria	270
Czech Republic	255
Ukraine	250
Bangladesh	235
Rwanda	230
Ivory Coast	220
Tanzania	210
Romania	190
Congo	170
Eritrea	165
Burundi	160
Russia	155
Zimbabwe	155
Palestinian Authority	155
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus	155
Jamaica	140
Cameroon	135
Other nationalities	1,975
Grand total	24,875

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five, and may not sum to the total shown due to rounding.
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information and therefore provisional.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1298W, on asylum, which countries are included in the category "Americas other" in the breakdown by nationality of the grants of leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise; and if she will break down by nationality the number in the "Americas other" category. [191575]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is contained in the table.

Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Grants of ILR issued under the Family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007, excluding dependants, for specified nationalities[1,2,3,4]

Country of nationality	*Total*
Americas other	
Bolivia	25
Brazil	25
Chile	10
Cuba	5
Grenada	*
Guyana	10
Honduras	*
Nicaragua	*
Peru	20
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	*
St. Lucia	5
Trinidad And Tobago	5
Venezuela	10
Total Americas other	115

* = 1 or 2.
[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5.
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information.
[4] Nationality recorded as at 7 December 2007 is not necessarily the applicant's nationality at the time of grant of ILR.

Asylum: Palliative Care

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she takes of whether overstayers without leave to remain are terminally ill and receiving life-sustaining hospital care in deciding whether they should be removed from the country. [189980]

Mr. Byrne: When considering removal the Border and Immigration Agency examines with great care each individual case considering any serious medical conditions or other compassionate circumstances. The Border and Immigration Agency also takes into account an individual's fitness to travel and whether the necessary medical treatment is available in the country to which they are returning.

Border and Immigration Agency: Advertising

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* costs are of the Border and Immigration Agency's advertising campaign on the new immigration arrangements. [191804]

Mr. Byrne: The first wave of the points based system advertising is targeting employers to make them aware of the new immigration controls and to allow them sufficient notice to prepare their business for the introduction of these controls later in the year. The current advertising is appearing online and in the press, radio, and trade press and directs employers to the Border and Immigration Agency website for more detailed information.

A budget of £1.5 million was made available to support this wave of campaign activity.

Crime: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on Crime: Drugs, if she will break down the figures for the amounts of class A drugs seized in the UK by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07 to provide information on a comparable basis to those reported by the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action Group for 2005-06. [191061]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA reports the full details of drug interdictions flowing from its work. CIDA applied a different methodology to its reporting. It is not possible to draw comparisons between those figures and the figures provided on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1388W.

Crimes of Violence: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were recorded in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [189297]

Mr. McNulty: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Violence against the person figures for London boroughs are available from 1999-2000 and are given in the following tables.

Table 1: violence against the person offences recorded by the police in London boroughs, 1999-2000 to 2001-02[1]

			Number of offences
London borough	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Barking and Dagenham	3,210	3,604	3,941
Barnet	4,244	4,574	4,842
Bexley	3,151	3,209	3,339
Brent	5,407	5,775	5,688
Bromley	3,224	3,800	3,843
Camden	5,342	5,327	5,473
City of Westminster	7,396	8,483	8,734
Croydon	5,880	6,327	6,206
Ealing	6,652	6,430	6,842
Enfield	4,040	4,798	5,077
Greenwich	6,234	6,308	6,257
Hackney	6,655	6,320	6,702
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,683	4,365	4,283
Haringey	4,874	5,202	5,088
Harrow	2,342	2,465	2,658
Havering	2,661	2,787	3,225
Heathrow	355	325	344
Hillingdon	3,713	4,094	4,766
Hounslow	5,200	5,436	5,798
Islington	5,255	5,443	5,667
Kensington and Chelsea	3,294	3,314	3,063
Kingston-upon-Thames	2,422	2,495	2,667
Lambeth	8,244	7,904	8,232
Lewisham	5,051	5,331	5,501
Merton	2,907	2,932	3,153
Newham	7,261	7,344	7,550
Redbridge	3,621	3,753	3,721
Richmond-upon-Thames	2,081	1,991	2,115
Southwark	7,480	7,442	7,760
Sutton	1,109	2,056	2,451
Tower Hamlets	3,850	5,965	6,390
Waltham Forest	4,862	4,804	4,973
Wandsworth	5,012	4,862	5,002
Total	147,712	155,265	161,351

[1] The figures given in this table do not take into account the effects of the National Crime Recording Standard and are therefore not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: violence against the person offences recorded by the police in London boroughs—2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

					Number of offences
London borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	4,392	4,902	5,224	5,288	5,150
Barnet	5,246	5,817	7,183	6,393	5,512
Bexley	3,555	4,051	4,129	4,373	3,742
Brent	6,2[illegible]7	7,371	9,135	8,253	6,216
Bromley	4,728	5,003	5,762	5,499	5,697
Camden	5,817	6,419	7,656	7,370	6,586
City of Westminster	9,898	9,558	10,454	9,445	8,413
Croydon	7,642	7,944	8,604	7,763	6,741
Ealing	7,143	7,150	8,009	7,878	7,641
Enfield	5,593	5,142	5,190	5,256	5,342
Greenwich	6,892	6,855	7,870	7,713	7,486
Hackney	6,810	7,141	7,288	7,471	7,148
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,323	4,287	4,622	5,041	5,054
Haringey	5,446	5,485	6,325	6,921	5,651
Harrow	2,827	2,858	3,041	3,028	2,870
Havering	3,901	3,922	4,191	4,172	3,639

Table 2: violence against the person offences recorded by the police in London boroughs—2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

Number of offences

London borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Heathrow	371	351	504	625	524
Hillingdon	4,983	5,222	5,921	6,261	5,911
Hounslow	7,110	6,946	6,772	6,434	5,502
Islington	6,347	6,607	7,617	7,002	6,289
Kensington and Chelsea	3,471	3,378	3,272	3,325	3,597
Kingston-upon-Thames	2,857	3,447	3,520	3,240	3,003
Lambeth	9,151	9,475	9,813	8,991	8,344
Lewisham	5,709	6,664	7,858	8,463	8,062
Merton	3,460	3,615	3,800	3,664	3,361
Newham	8,096	8,210	7,976	8,421	7,578
Redbridge	4,565	4,682	4,690	3,976	4,323
Richmond-upon-Thames	2,547	2,497	2,570	2,345	2,122
Southwark	8,221	8,912	9,338	9,065	8,435
Sutton	3,065	3,214	3,555	3,161	2,989
Tower Hamlets	7,538	7,724	7,895	7,455	7,727
Waltham Forest	5,427	6,002	6,241	6,831	6,052
Wandsworth	5,354	5,336	5,898	6,139	5,647
Total	178,782	186,187	201,923	197,262	182,354

[1] The figures given in this table take into account the effects of the National Crime Recording Standard are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188793]

Mr. Byrne: Information on suspensions and dismissals is not recorded centrally to the level of detail requested or is only available for part of the period requested.

During the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007, six members of staff within Home Office headquarters and the Border and Immigration Agency were dismissed under the broad category of IT abuse. This includes any misuse of IT including of internal e-mail. Detailed information on suspensions is not recorded centrally within Home Office HQ or BIA and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

During the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007, fewer than five members of staff within the Identity and Passport Service were suspended or dismissed for IT abuse. There were no reported cases in the Criminal Records Bureau.

As fewer than five people were dismissed within Home Office HQ or its agencies in each year, a further breakdown of the information would breach confidentiality.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what private finance initiative projects have been approved by her Department in each of the last three financial years, broken down by *(a)* value and *(b)* start date. [190887]

Mr. Byrne: The capital value and start date for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Detention Centres: Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide for a representative of the Medical Justice Network to have observer status on the Border and Immigration Agency clinical governance committee which oversees the standards of healthcare in detention centres; and if she will make a statement. [191431]

Mr. Byrne: The clinical governance group for immigration removal centres was set up in 2006 to provide an internal forum for Border and Immigration Agency and Department of Health officials to discuss health matters relating to immigration detainees and to manage any resulting work. There are no current plans to widen membership of the group, on an observer basis or otherwise. The appropriate forum for external groups to raise health issues relating to detainees is the Border and Immigration Agency's Detention User Group, of which the Medical Justice Network is a member.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to inform the public of the harmful effects of illegal drugs. [191895]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The Home Office is jointly responsible with the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families for the management of the FRANK drug awareness campaign.

Since May 2003, FRANK used a range of advertising and marketing elements to convey the dangers and risks associated with drugs to young people and their parents and carers. FRANK is there for anyone to call 24 hours a day who has questions or concerns about drugs and the helpline advisers can signpost callers to local services.

The new Drug Strategy launched on 27 February will continue to send out clear messages about the damaging consequences of drug misuse. Key actions will involve extending the FRANK campaign to provide access to support and interventions, supporting local campaigns and school-based education and targeting key groups, improving support and information to parents and developing better community based communications to build community confidence and engagement on tackling drug misuse.

Flags

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU flags are *(a)* held and *(b)* owned by her Department and its agencies. [[illegible]8939]

Mr. Byrne: My Department has an EU flag at its Marsham street headquarters building in central London. Information about EU flags held or owned across the rest of the Department is not held centrally.

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce accredited training in respect of people in the criminal justice system dealing with cases of forced marriage. [188273]

Mr. McNulty: The Initial Police Learning and Development Programme administered by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) covers the police response to planned forced marriages, within the wider training material on domestic violence and child abuse.

Police officers also receive additional training on domestic violence and the NPIA are, in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), currently considering the development of forced marriage and honour-based violence training, although its use by the police service is optional. There are no immediate plans to accredit this learning.

In July 2007, a pilot on forced marriage/so-called honour-based violence commenced in four CPS which will aim to establish information about the prevalence of forced marriage and to inform the development of any national guidance and training for prosecutors to improve these prosecutions and increase support for victims. A final report on the pilot is due in summer 2008.

In relation to the judiciary, a programme of work being planned prior to the implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 will include the development of the necessary court rules and forms, the setting up of the appropriate court processing systems, guidance developed for staff and judicial training undertaken.

Foreign Workers: Restaurants

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of a points-based immigration system on recruitment in the restaurant industry. [188172]

Mr. Byrne: Under the new points-based system (PBS) employers, including those in the restaurant industry, will be able to recruit skilled workers that meet the criteria of tier 2 of the PBS.

The Migration Advisory Committee will provide advice to government on specific sectors and occupations in the labour market where shortages exist which can sensibly be filled by migration. Migrants wishing to work in these shortage occupations will receive extra points under tier 2.

While tier 3 of the PBS is for low skilled workers, this tier is suspended for the foreseeable future in light of the available labour force within the enlarged European Union.

An impact assessment of tier 2 will be published prior to the launch of this tier.

Frontiers: Security

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was taken to include a £92 million addendum within the eBorders contract. [188643]

Mr. Byrne: The decision to procure the additional functionality, covered by the addendum referred to above, and which forms part of the main e-Borders contract, was made in Summer 2007. Funding was agreed after the Prime Minister's statement on 25 July 2007 concerning security and counter terrorism.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extended *(a)* functionality and *(b)* services will be provided by the £92 million addendum to the Government's e-Borders programme. [188644]

Mr. Byrne: The addendum to the e-Borders contract will provide additional functionality to enable the agencies to:

capture Other Passenger Information (OPI) relating to 100 million passenger journeys per year;

perform sophisticated analysis (data mining) on the data held in the e-Borders database;

develop and run profiles against the passenger data that is received and held in the system; and

capture Domestic Travel Information (DTI) for all passengers travelling between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, subject to the implementation of Section 14 of the Police & Justice Act 2006.

Identity Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hillsborough of 25 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1243W, on identity fraud, if she will break down by sub-heading the estimated figure of £1.7 billion. [192619]

Mr. Coaker: The following table gives a breakdown of the £1.7 billion figure. This was placed in the House Library on 2 February 2006 and is also available online at:

http://www.identitytheft.org.uk/
IDpercent20fraudpercent20table.pdf

Updated estimate of the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy—2 February 2006

Dept/Organisation	*Cost of identity fraud*	*Notes*
Association of British Insurers	£22 million	A number of insurers (representing approx 36 per cent. of the industry) estimated that their financial loss in 2003 due to identity fraud was £7.9 million, which translates to £22 million for the industry as a whole.
APACS, the UK Payments Association	£504.8 million	Losses resulting from plastic cards being used by criminals pretending to be the rightful owner or by criminals using a fictitious identity. This figure comprises: (i) Counterfeit (skimmed/cloned) cards—£129.7 million (ii) Cards lost or stolen—£114.4 million (iii) Card not present—£150.8 million (iv) Mail non-receipt—£72.9 million (v) Fraudulent applications—£13.1 million (vi) Account takeover—£23.8 million
Audit Commission	£15 million	Audit Commission not included in 2002 Study. Estimate of loss to pensions schemes due to identity fraud (extrapolated from Audit Commission National Fraud Initiative figures).
British Bankers' Association	Figures for card fraud included in APACS totals	The BBA does not collect statistics on identity fraud. Figures from its members for card fraud are included in the APACS figures.
Building Societies' Association	£3.1 million	A number of building societies representing just over 50 per cent. of the industry responded to a survey and estimated their financial loss due to ID fraud. The BSA extrapolated figures for the sector as a whole and estimate that this translates to approximately £3.1 million losses due to ID fraud over the past year.
CIFAS—The UK's Fraud Prevention Service	£2.3 million	This represents the cost of identity fraud to the retail sector. CIFAS figures have only been included with respect to the retail sector. This avoids double-counting on contributions made by other sectors directly.
Department for Constitutional Affairs	£29.9 million	Unpaid fines due to "tracking" problems—this is due to a number of reasons including false information being provided to the police.
	£5.9 million	Unpaid fines due to identity problems—i.e. many people issued with fines do not turn up at courts to verify their alleged name and address. Given this, courts find it difficult to enforce the payment of a fine because they are not certain the identity on the fine is a true identity (many fines get issued to fictitious identities or identities with inaccurate spellings).
Department for Work and Pensions	£20 million	DWP estimates that 20m-50m of benefit fraud arises as a result of identity fraud (i.e. claiming benefit in false identities).
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	£2.5 million	Estimated cost of operational activity required to help prevent abuse of the driving licence in identity crime.
Driving Standards Agency	£1.12 million	Estimated costs of ensuring that DSA is satisfied as to the identity of candidates presenting for theory and practical tests. The resultant enforcement activity in preventing and detecting impersonations, ensuring that only those entitled can hold driving licences reducing the ability to commit identity fraud.
Finance and Leasing Association	£14 million	FLA not included in 2002 study. This figure relates to identity fraud arising from the provision of motor finance by FLA members.
HM Revenue and Customs	*Indirect taxation:*	
	£215 million (MTIC fraud)	It is not possible to determine if the scale of this problem has changed since 2002. The figure from the original study has been included for illustrative purposes to help estimate any comparative changes to the overall cost of identity fraud since 2002.
	Direct taxation:	
	£2.7 million	*Tax Credits* HMRC has identified a number of fraudulent and potentially fraudulent tax credit claims based on false and stolen identities. Some 6,800 fraudulent claims have been identified based on stolen DWP staff identities, of which 4,100 were fully intercepted by HMRC before any payment. The loss from this fraud is estimated at £2.7 million. HMRC is currently subjecting around 30,000 potentially fraudulent tax credit claims to detailed investigation including claims based on the stolen DWP staff identities and on stolen Network Rail staff identities. It is too early to estimate the loss from this fraud.

Updated estimate of the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy—2 February 2006

Dept/Organisation	*Cost of identity fraud*	*Notes*
		Child Benefit HMRC has experienced a small number of attempts to defraud the Child Benefit system by the use of false documents. These attempts have been successfully detected and it believes the risk of identity fraud to be minimal.
Home Office (Immigration and Nationality Directorate)	£56.2 million	Approximate cost to IND of undertaking enforcement activity against individuals who may be involved in some form of identity theft or identity fraud, potentially involving document abuse.
Local authorities	£28,564	From an online poll of its members, LAIOG identified that £28,564 was specifically due to identity fraud. However, most LAIOG members contacted stated that as identity fraud was usually part of a larger fraud, it would not necessarily be recorded.
Money laundering	£395 million	The overall size of money laundered in the UK is not known currently but is believed to be substantial. This cannot be attributed to any single organisation. No figures are available currently on the proportion of money laundering that relies on identity fraud. It is not possible to determine if the scale of this problem has changed since 2002. The figure from the original study has been included for illustrative purposes to help estimate any comparative changes to the overall cost of identity fraud since 2002.
Police Service	£1.73 million	It is not possible to estimate the overall cost of identity fraud to the Police Service. However, figures show that last year Police Forces in England and Wales spent 15,000 to 20,000 days dealing with bogus callers—a crime that relies heavily on false identities. Cost of £1.73 million is based on police forces in England and Wales spending 17,500 days (midpoint of 15,000-20,000 days) at a daily cost of £99.19 (made up of £82.19 per day per officer and support costs of £17.00 per day per officer) to deal with bogus callers.
Telecommunications	£372 million	Telecoms not included in 2002 study. The cost of identity-related fraud is a substantial component of the total fraud/revenue loss in the telecoms sector.
UK Passport Service	£62.8 million	The cost to UKPS of measures to counter identity fraud when processing applications for UK passports issued in the UK.
Total	£1.72 billion	

Illegal Immigrants

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the average cost to the public purse of deporting *(a)* an illegal immigrant and *(b)* a foreign prisoner with a recommendation for deportation in the last 12 months; [186929]

(2) how much has been spent on deporting *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* foreign prisoners in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [186930]

Mr. Byrne: The average cost of the removal of illegal immigrants and foreign prisoners is not disaggregated from the overall costs of the Border and Immigration Agency and therefore not readily available.

In 2007 we removed one person every eight minutes (over 63,000), including a record number of foreign prisoners (over 4,200).

Voluntary returns are always preferable but we will enforce returns where necessary. In doing so, we aim for the lowest available costs. The National Audit Office in 2005-06 estimated the average cost of an enforced removal as £11,000. The report can be accessed at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/05-06/050676.pdf

We are committed to doubling our enforcement activity by 2010. This includes increasing the number of removals.

Latest published statistics on the total spend in the Home Office are set out in the Home Office Report a copy of which has been placed in both Houses. It is also available to view at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to increase capacity in the immigration detention and removal estate; what the planned capacity of the estate is for *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012 and *(e)* 2013; and what discussions she has had with (i) the Secretary of State for Justice, (ii) HM Prison Service, (iii) other Government departments, (iv) local authorities and (v) private sector representatives on the acquisition of new sites for the estate. [190149]

Mr. Byrne: As I said in January, we will publish proposals during the course of 2008.

Immigration: Foreign Workers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion [illegible]raqi citizens of Kurdish ethnicity employed by the M[illegible]try of Defence in Iraq have applied for indefinite leave to enter the UK on an exceptional basis outside the immigration regulations. [191226]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 March 2008]*: The proportion of Iraqi citizens of Kurdish ethnicity employed by the Ministry of Defence in Iraq, who have applied for indefinite leave to enter the UK on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules, is not known.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 172525 tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 4 December 2007; what the reason is for the time taken to answer; and if she will make a statement. [182610]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 429W. The Department makes every effort to answer Members' questions within the time scales set. However, this is not always possible.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 7 January, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP reference: NEWCASE/410308), about a points-based system for chefs applying for work permits to work in UK restaurants. [191155]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 10 March 2008.

Migrant Workers: EC Enlargement

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accession workers cards were issued to *(a)* Romanians and *(b)* Bulgarians in 2007. [191193]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows.

(a) 2,135 accession worker cards were issued to Romanian nationals in 2007.

(b) 1,580 accession worker cards were issued to Bulgarian nationals in 2007.

The data are based on management information, are provisional and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.

The Government publish quarterly figures on applications under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. The publications provide a breakdown of the various schemes operating under the regulations.

The most recent publications, relating to the last quarter of 2007, were published on 26 February 2008. Each of the quarterly reports from 2007 are available on the Border and Immigration website:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Copies are available in the House Library.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 453W, on Offenders: Deportation, whether the Government are considering deporting at the start rather than at the completion of a prison sentence for non-UK nationals who are given a custodial sentence. [189321]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 February 2008]*: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee in her letter of 20 November 2007 that the Agency was commencing consideration of the majority of foreign national prisoners 12 months before the earliest date of release however there remain cases where that is not possible such as when individuals receive shorter sentences. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Following a previous decision made by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal the Border and Immigration Agency is unable to consider a foreign national prisoner for deportation any earlier than 12 to 18 months before their earliest date of release.

Overseas Students: Sponsorship

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what charges there will be to institutions for joining the sponsors register to recruit international students; when the register will be become operational; and when she expects guidance on the accreditation process for membership of the register to be issued. [191605]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 March 2008]*: To join the sponsor register to recruit international students, institutions will need show that they have been inspected or accredited by an appropriate inspection or accreditation body. Full details of our accreditation policy were published on 27 July 2007. The guidance is also available at the following web link:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/tier4/T4_accreditationqanda.pdf?view=Binary

and a copy will be placed in the House Library. Institutions will be able to apply for a sponsor licence from the Border and Immigration Agency, in order to sponsor international students, from later this summer.

Police: Information and Communications Technology

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the £50 million capital fund for mobile data devices has been spent; and how many devices are in use. [186994]

Mr. McNulty: The allocation of the £50 million capital funding for the provision of this technology will not be available until the start of 2008-09 financial year.

The total number of mobile data devices currently in use is not held centrally as this is a matter for individual police forces.

The Government have, however, already funded a pilot of mobile information systems in six police forces areas and as a result of the pilot the number of hand-held computers in use in these police forces is estimated to have risen from 250 at the end of 2006 to 2,500 at the end of 2007.

Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement to provide the police service with additional hand-held devices, supported by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's £50 million pledge for this technology in September 2007, we expect the total number of hand-held computers in use by the police service to exceed 10,000 by the end of 2008.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is working closely with the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers on a Mobile Information Programme, and police forces are preparing their applications for funding in 2008-09 financial year in order to progress this initiative.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1437-38W, on prisoners' release, how many of the prisoners were deported on their release to *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* Vietnam and *(d)* China. [188862]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance of 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners had been deported in 2007.

The information contained in the response provided by the Secretary for Justice to which the hon. Member refers is for 2002 until 2006. Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. Copies of this are available in the Library of the House.

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Border and Immigration Agency is continuing to put in place new systems to improve its data collection for the future in this area. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available as required.

Prisoners: Extradition

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners at HM Prison Bullingdon have completed their sentences and are awaiting extradition; [190688]

(2) what the longest period is at HM Prison Bullingdon for which a prisoner who has completed a sentence has been awaiting extradition. [190689]

Meg Hillier: On 10 March 2008, there were no prisoners in HMP Bullingdon who had completed a domestic prison sentence and were awaiting extradition.

Prostitution

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of the vice trade in Essex in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [190491]

Mr. Coaker: There is no single definition of a vice-related offence, but there are a number of offences which, in some cases, relate to vice.

The Home Office collects statistics on notifiable offences recorded by the police. These offences fall into two categories—those which are indictable or triable either way, and some closely related summary offences. Table 1 gives the numbers of three of the former offences (trafficking for sexual exploitation, exploitation of prostitution and soliciting of women by men) during the last three years in Essex.

Other offences, such as kerb crawling, brothel keeping and offences by prostitutes, do not feature in the recorded crime statistics because they are summary offences. However, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform collects information in the court proceedings database which shows the numbers of people proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and cautioned for a range of sexual offences. This information for Essex is given in Table 2.

Table 1: Selected sexual offences recorded by the police in Essex

	Number of offences		
Offence	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	0	1	1
Exploitation of prostitutes	7	3	13
Soliciting of women by men	5	5	0

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and offenders cautioned for selected sexual offences, Essex police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2]

		Proceeded against			*Found guilty*			*Cautioned*		
Offence description	*Principal statute*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Procuring female for immoral purposes or using drugs to obtain or facilitate sexual intercourse.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Secs 2, 3, 4, 22 and 23.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Detention of female in brothel or other premises.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 24.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing or encouraging prostitution etc. of girl under 16 years.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 28.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and offenders cautioned for selected sexual offences, Essex police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2]

		Proceeded against			Found guilty			Cautioned		
Offence description	*Principal statute*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Man living on earnings of prostitution or exercising control over prostitute. Woman for purpose of gain, exercising control over prostitute.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 30, Sec 31.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Procuring, permitting or causing the prostitution etc. of female defective.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Secs 27, 29, 9.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Man or woman living wholly or in part on the earnings of male prostitution.	Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 5(1).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Controlling a prostitute for gain.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping a brothel used for prostitution	Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S14	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paying for sex with a female child under 16—no penetration+B346	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1,2,4b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paying for sex with a male child under 16—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1,2,4b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paying for sex with a male child 16 or 17	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1 a,b,ci,2,5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography—child 13 to 17	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.48(1a,bi,2)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography—child 13 to 17	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.49(1a,bi,2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography—child 13 to 17	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.50(1a,bi,2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography—child under 13	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.48(1a,bii,2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paying for sex with a female child under 16—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1a,b,ci,2,4a,6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrange/facilitate arrival into the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (trafficking)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arrange/facilitate travel within the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Committing an offence with intent to commit a sexual offence	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.62	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerb-crawling.	Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 1.	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Persistent soliciting of women for the purpose of prostitution.	Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 2.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Placing an advertisement relating to prostitution.	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.46.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and offenders cautioned for selected sexual offences, Essex police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2]

		Proceeded against			Found guilty			Cautioned		
Offence description	*Principal statute*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Offences by prostitutes, common prostitute behaving in a riotous and indecent manner in a public place.	Vagrancy Act 1824 Sec 3.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences by prostitutes: Second conviction as an idle and disorderly person.	Vagrancy Act 1824 Sec 4.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution.	Street Offences Act 1959 Sec 1.	7	5	1	7	4	1	—	—	—
	Total	11	6	5	7	5	1	2	1	5

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Resettlement: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security vetting is given to dependents of Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence and resettled in the UK. [189856]

Mr. Byrne: Iraqi citizens who were formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence, and any family members, who are seeking resettlement to the UK are subject to screening by the Border and Immigration Agency. This includes checks to identify and deny entry to any individuals who may present a threat to the UK or whose presence here would be undesirable.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have been granted leave to settle in the UK on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules. [189857]

Mr. Byrne: To date no Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have been granted indefinite leave to enter in the UK on an exceptional basis outside of the immigration rules in accordance with the assistance available to locally engaged Iraqi staff who were serving on or after 8 August 2007.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens currently employed by the Ministry of Defence have had an application for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the immigration rules rejected. [189859]

Mr. Byrne: As of 25 February no locally engaged staff seeking indefinite leave to enter from Iraq have yet submitted an application for entry clearance to UKvisas.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence have had an application for indefinite leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules rejected. [189860]

Mr. Byrne: As of 25 February no eligible staff have submitted an application for entry clearance to UKvisas although seven have expressed an interest in the scheme.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reception and integration package given to Iraqi citizens formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence when they arrive in the UK for resettlement consists of. [189862]

Mr. Byrne: We will offer a comprehensive resettlement package to those Iraqi citizens and their dependants who meet the eligibility criteria and who are successfully resettled under the scheme of assistance for Locally Engaged staff formerly employed by the Ministry of Defence, when they arrive in the UK. It will consist of an initial reception and orientation process immediately on arrival followed by an integration package which will include assistance with housing, health care, education, casework support and sign posting to the relevant agencies.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of assisting the transportation of Iraqi staff and dependants who received leave to enter on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules has been in 2007-08 to date. [189865]

Mr. Byrne: To date no costs for transportation have been incurred.

Security: Liverpool Airport

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on security at Liverpool John Lennon Airport since 2002. [191282]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, as regulator, sets the minimum security requirements that industry must implement. At local level, the security of an airport, and the related costs, are for the airport operator, police and other security stakeholders to decide based on the threats and risks at that particular airport. The Home Office has therefore not directly spent any money on airport security at Liverpool John Lennon Airport since 2002.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought following investigations by the e-crime unit in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [187275]

Jacqui Smith: Since April 2006, SOCA e-crime has concluded nine operations and passed papers to prosecutors in this country and abroad. To date, these have resulted in the conviction of 15 individuals.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has passed to the Assets Recovery Agency since 1 April 2007. [187295]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA has referred two cases to ARA since 1 April 2007.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [191007]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with the chair and the director-general of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

SOCA's achievements in its first year of operation are set out in its annual report for 2006-07 published on 18 May 2007 and placed in the House Library.

SOCA also appeared before a Home Affairs Select Committee on 29 January 2008 where it answered a number of questions about its effectiveness.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious and Organised Crime Agency spent in 2006-07 on expanding covert intelligence gathering capabilities. [187281]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA invests in covert intelligence gathering capabilities to sustain its own activity and in support of wider law enforcement. The scale of this investment is sensitive, since it is indicative of SOCA's capabilities and capacity, knowledge of which may offer an advantage to serious organised criminals.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she issued consequential on the provisions of section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 in each year since the Act came into force; and how many she plans to issue in the next 12 months. [192537]

Mr. Coaker: On 20 March 2007 SI 2007 No. 930 was made by my hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Home Office designating 16 royal, Government and parliamentary sites. A factual inaccuracy in this statutory instrument was amended by SI 2007 No. 1387 which was made on 2 May 2007. Both these statutory instruments came into force on 1 June 2007. On 22 May 2007 a Home Office circular (No. 18/2007) was issued giving advice to police forces on the operation of the offence at these 16 sites. No other documents have been issued publicly and it is not currently anticipated that any more will be issued in the next 12 months.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the operation of section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; what amendments have been made to this section since enactment; whether she has any plans to bring forward amendments to this section in the next 12 months; and what recent representations she has received on this section. [192538]

Mr. Coaker: Section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, together with the associated provisions in sections 129 to 131, created a new offence of criminal trespass on a designated site. It came into force on 1 July 2005. Section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2006 amended the wording of the offence in sections 128 and 129 to trespass on a protected site, which is defined as either a designated site or a licensed nuclear site. These amendments came into force on 13 April 2006. There are currently no plans to amend these sections and no recent representations have been received on these sections.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184693]

Mr. Byrne: During the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, no formal complaints of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination were made by staff within Home Office headquarters.

During the same period 11 formal complaints of sexual harassment and five formal complaints of sexual discrimination were made by staff against their colleagues within Home Office agencies (Border and Immigration Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau).

Shoplifting: Cleveland

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for shoplifting in the Cleveland police force area in each of the last two years. [189584]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available as arrests for shoplifting cannot be separately identified from the main offence group of 'other theft offences' of which it is a part.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of each grant provided by her Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184101]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounting system shows the following total payments to Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, Shropshire county council and Telford and the Wrekin borough council.

	Total (£)	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Shrewsbury and Atcham	39,761	—
Shropshire	336,657	286,310
Telford and Wrekin	445,768	391,774

A grant by grant split of 2006-07 and 2007-08 totals and the planned grants for 2008-09 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on grants provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

Telephone Tapping

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department of making telephone intercepts was in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [191187]

Mr. McNulty: Individual intercepting agencies are responsible for the costs of interception. It is not in the public interest to provide a breakdown of these costs because they would be misleading and could give an indication of capabilities.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many plasma television screens have been purchased by her Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191096]

Mr. Byrne: Central records on the purchase of plasma screens are not held. However at 2 Marsham street one plasma screen has been purchased in the last 24 months at a cost of £1,045.

Visas: Asia-Pacific Region

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with representatives from the south Asian community on the proposed changes to visitor visas. [176828]

Mr. Byrne: We have consulted and worked with a range of stakeholders within Government and industry to formulate the questions posed in the consultation on visitor visas. We will listen to and learn from the views of all those with a stake in this consultation in order to develop a system that is both more secure but that also maintains the UK's position as a destination of choice. I discussed this issue at the Ethnic Minority Citizens Forum at the end of January and during my visit to India in February when I was accompanied by a delegation of community leaders.

Visas: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received about the impact of the points-based migration system on US university internships in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [191188]

Mr. Byrne: Representations have been received from the Association of American Study Abroad Programmes (UK) and Border and Immigration Agency officials have met with them on a number of occasions to discuss the impact of the points based system on US university internships in the UK. A further meeting is scheduled to take place shortly.

TREASURY

China Task Force

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) who the members are of the China Task Force; and what his policy is on the publication of information relating to the China Task Force; [193477]

(2) if he will ensure that minutes of meetings of the China Task Force and other documents relating to its activities that could be placed in the public domain are published on his Department's website in future. [193478]

Angela Eagle: Following the recent change of chairman of the China Task Force, there has been a review of the Task Force and its membership, which was discussed by members on 28 February and is still ongoing. As the Secretariat for the China Task Force sits within the Cabinet Office, information relating to the Task Force will therefore be published on the Cabinet Office website in due course.

The current membership includes: Sir David Brewer (President, China Britain Business Council); Lord Powell; Mervyn Davies (Chairman, Standard Chartered Bank); Professor Sir Colin Campbell (Vice-Chancellor, University of Nottingham); Professor David Norse (Retired Pro-Provost, University College London); right hon. Phil Woolas MP (Minister of State, Climate Change and Environment); Lord Malloch Brown (Minister of State, Africa, Asia and the UN); Neil MacGregor (Director of the British Museum); Sir John Rose (CEO Rolls Royce Plc); Professor K K Cheng (Professor of Epidemiology, Birmingham University); Andrew Cahn (Chief Executive, UK Trade and Investment); Sir Richard Sykes (Rector, Imperial College); Dr. Gary Dirks (Executive President and CEO BP China); and Sebastian Wood (Director Asia Pacific, FCO).

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192527]

Angela Eagle: The Civil Service Appeal Board's annual reports are available at the following link:

http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk/publications.aspx#annual_reports

Detailed information relating to each of the Chancellor's departments and agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Debts

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average amount of personal debt per person and *(b)* total amount of personal debt was in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) Dacorum in the last five years for which figures are available. [193420]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what the (a) average amount of personal debt per person and (b) total amount of personal debt was in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) Dacorum in the last five years for which figures are available.

In National Accounts terminology the personal sector is referred to as the household sector. Following international practice, the household sector is combined with the non-profit institutions serving households sector (NPISH), and it is not possible to separate the two. Examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are: charities; trade unions; universities; churches and political parties.

Data on total financial liabilities of the household and NPISH sector are only available at a UK level; therefore it is not possible to answer parts (ii) and (iii) of your question.

	UK population (thousand)	*UK total household and NPISH sector financial liabilities (£ million)*	*Average financial liabilities per person in the UK (£000)*
2002	59,323	923,144	16
2003	59,557	1,046,913	18
2004	59,846	1,172,032	20
2005	60,238	1,249,393	21
2006	60,587	1,405,756	23

Sources:

UK population—Mid Year Estimates of resident population, Table 2.1 Monthly Digest of Statistics

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=611&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

UK Total household and NPISH sector financial liabilities—Financial balance sheet: households and non profit institutions serving households, Table A64 United Kingdom Economic Accounts

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Departmental Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timescale is for dealing with complaints to his Department; and what percentage of complaints were processed within this timescale in the latest period for which figures are available. [193070]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1021W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban). The Treasury aims to respond to all correspondence within 15 working days.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191478]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the Annex in "Meeting the aspirations of the British People: the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (CM 7227) and the Treasury's "Value for Money Delivery Agreement and Asset Management Strategy" published on 17 December 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2311W, on departmental manpower, what the baseline figure of employment was on 1 April 2004 in each region and country in total; if he will break down those figures by department or agency; and what the equivalent figures were on 1 April 2007. [192845]

Angela Eagle: The following tables show the staff in post breakdown for the Chancellor's Department at 1 April 2004, as published in the civil service staffing statistics.

Civil service statistics at 1 April 2004

Full-time equivalent

	EM	*East*	*London*	*NE*	*NW*	*NI*	*Scotland*
HM Treasury	0	0	1,060	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	80	0	0	0	0
Office of Government Commerce	0	230	220	0	160	0	10
Government Actuary's Department	0	0	110	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs (IR plus C and E)	5,020	6,780	12,300	13,120	14,850	2,500	9,990
Valuation Office Agency	320	360	850	210	580	0	80
National Savings and Investments	0	0	110	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	870	0	820	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,340	7,370	15,600	13,330	16,410	2,500	10,080

Full-time equivalent

	SE	*SW*	*Wales*	*WM*	*Y and H*	*Unknown and elsewhere*	*All regions*
HM Treasury	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,060
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Office of Government Commerce	0	0	0	0	20	20	660
Government Actuary's Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
HM Revenue and Customs (IR plus C and E)	10,610	4,670	4,720	5,870	6,690	70	97,190
Valuation Office Agency	730	490	310	460	540	0	4,930
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
Office for National Statistics	760	0	1,260	0	0	0	3,710
Royal Mint	0	0	730	0	0	0	730
Total	12,100	5,160	7,020	6,330	7,250	90	108,580

The following tables show the staff in post breakdown for the Chancellor's Departments at 1 April 2007, as supplied by the Departments and agencies.

Departmental records at 1 April 2007

Full-time equivalent

	EM	*East*	*London*	*NE*	*NW*	*NI*	*Scotland*
HM Treasury	0	68	1,139	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	75	0	0	0	0
Office of Government Commerce and HMT	0	190	195	13	167	0	6
Government Actuary's Department	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	4,469	5,874	10,248	12,461	14,408	2,326	10,520
Valuation Office Agency	280	357	749	169	492	0	68
National Savings and Investment	0	0	121	4	2	0	3
Office for National Statistics	0	0	551	0	814	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,749	6,489	13,178	12,647	15,883	2,326	10,597

Full-time equivalent

	SE	*SW*	*Wales*	*WM*	*Y and H*	*Unknown and elsewhere*	*All regions*
HM Treasury	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,207
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
Office of Government Commerce and HMT	0	0	0	0	4	0	575
Government Actuary's Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
HM Revenue and Customs	8,544	4,173	4,479	5,208	5,824	402	88,936
Valuation Office Agency	588	375	307	383	461	1	4,229
National Savings and Investment	0	0	0	0	0	0	130
Office for National Statistics	700	0	1,259	0	0	0	3,324
Royal Mint	0	0	762	0	0	0	762
Total	9,832	4,548	6,807	5,591	6,288	403	99,338

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192385]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192992]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not own any residential property.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the level of excise duty on the British brewing industry. [193002]

Angela Eagle: In making decisions on the taxation of beer, the Chancellor takes all relevant factors into consideration, including the state of the industry and its contribution to the economy.

Financial Institutions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department collects on the offshore activities of UK banks; and if he will make a statement. [190829]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC routinely collects information on the offshore activities of UK banks for UK tax purposes in the following situations:

If a UK bank is trading through a branch overseas then the profits from that branch are reported as part of the UK company's profits for corporation tax in its tax returns.

There is special legislation that taxes the profits of certain overseas subsidiaries (called 'Controlled Foreign Companies') of UK groups, including banks, where these subsidiaries are located in certain low tax jurisdictions. UK banks that have such companies are required to make a return to HMRC of their controlled foreign companies and the profits to be allocated to the UK.

Foreign Workers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2315-19W, on foreign workers, what his most recent estimate is of non-UK born persons in employment as a percentage of all in employment in *(a)* each county of the UK and *(b)* the UK as a whole in each of the last five years. [193479]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question pursuant to the Answer of 4th March 2008, Official Report, columns 2315-9W, on foreign workers, what the most recent estimate is of non-UK born persons in employment as a percentage of all in employment in (a) each county of the UK and (b) the UK as a whole in each of the last five years. (193479)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women) and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the percentage of persons of working age in employment, who were not born in the UK for each UK county, Unitary Authority and Metropolitan County and the UK, during the twelve month periods ending in March for 2005, 2006, 2007 from the APS and, for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2003 and 2004 from the Annual LFS.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS/LFS are not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Non-UK born persons[1] in employment in each UK county, unitary authority and metropolitan county and the UK, 2003 to 2007, as a percentage of all persons in employment[2]

Percentage

12 months ending	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*
UK	9	9	10	10	11
Bedfordshire	8	8	7	10	11
Buckinghamshire	10	11	11	11	13
Cambridgeshire	8	8	10	12	14
Cheshire	4	5	4	4	4
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	4	4	4	5	8
Cumbria	3	2	3	3	3
Derbyshire	2	2	3	4	3
Devon	5	5	4	4	6
Dorset	4	5	6	5	4
Durham	2	3	3	2	3
East Sussex	5	5	8	7	8
Essex	6	5	6	6	8
Gloucestershire	7	6	6	6	6
Hampshire	7	8	7	6	8
Hertfordshire	9	9	10	10	14
Kent	6	6	7	7	8
Lancashire	4	4	5	6	6
Leicestershire	4	4	5	6	6
Lincolnshire	3	5	5	6	7
Norfolk	5	5	6	6	7
Northamptonshire	5	5	7	10	9
Northumberland	2	3	3	3	2
North Yorkshire	4	5	5	5	5
Nottinghamshire	4	4	3	4	5
Oxfordshire	9	9	11	12	12
Shropshire	3	4	4	3	4
Somerset	5	6	4	2	4
Staffordshire	2	3	3	3	2
Suffolk	7	7	6	9	7
Surrey	9	11	11	13	14
Warwickshire	8	6	6	6	7
West Sussex	9	9	9	9	12
Wiltshire	6	5	7	6	10
Worcestershire	3	5	5	4	4
Tyne and Wear Met County	3	4	4	5	6
Greater Manchester Met County	6	6	7	8	8
Merseyside Met County	3	3	4	4	6
South Yorkshire Met County	3	4	4	5	6
West Yorkshire Met County	7	8	8	9	9
West Midlands Met County	10	11	11	12	14
Inner London	38	39	39	41	42
Outer London	26	27	30	29	31
Hartlepool UA	2	2	2	2	2
Middlesbrough UA	5	4	5	6	6

Non-UK born persons[1] in employment in each UK county, unitary authority and metropolitan county and the UK, 2003 to 2007, as a percentage of all persons in employment[2]

					Percentage
12 months ending	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*	*March 2007*
Redcar and Cleveland UA	2	2	3	2	1
Stockton-on-Tees UA	4	5	5	5	3
Darlington UA	4	4	5	5	6
Halton UA	1	2	2	2	2
Warrington UA	4	4	3	4	5
Blackburn with Darwen UA	7	10	11	12	12
Blackpool UA	3	2	4	4	5
Kingston upon Hull City of UA	4	3	4	6	7
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	4	3	3	3	4
North East Lincolnshire UA	3	3	3	2	3
North Lincolnshire UA	4	4	4	5	7
York UA	4	4	4	6	8
Clackmannanshire	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
West Dunbartonshire	n/a	1	1	2	3
Dumfries and Galloway	2	3	3	3	2
Dundee City	3	5	4	6	7
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	3
East Dunbartonshire	4	3	3	4	3
East Lothian	3	4	4	4	6
East Renfrewshire	3	5	4	4	4
Edinburgh City of	8	11	11	11	13
Falkirk	2	3	3	3	2
Fife	4	4	4	6	4
City of Glasgow	5	7	6	7	9
Highland	2	4	3	4	5
Inverclyde	n/a	6	5	4	3
Midlothian	3	2	3	3	3
Moray	3	3	4	5	7
North Ayrshire	4	3	3	3	2
North Lanarkshire	1	2	2	2	3
Orkney Islands	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Perth and Kinross	6	4	4	5	5
Renfrewshire	3	4	3	3	4
Shetland Islands	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Ayrshire	4	3	3	2	3
South Lanarkshire	1	1	3	4	4
Stirling	n/a	4	4	5	8
West Lothian	1	3	5	6	7
Northern Ireland	4	4	5	4	6

n/a = Not available.

[1] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.

[2] Workers are defined as of working age (male age 16-64, females age 16-59). Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

Note:

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).

it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey.

Inflation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the rate of inflation. [192371]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what is the most recent estimate of the rate of inflation. (192371).

There are two main measures of consumer inflation published by the Office for National Statistics, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) which forms the basis for the Government's inflation target and the Retail Prices Index (RPI) which has many uses including the indexation of state benefits and pensions. The latest data for these can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/instantfigures.asp

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2321W, on Members: correspondence, how many replies were sent to hon. Members from the Preston tax credit office in the last 12 months; and by what procedures the Director of the office is shown some of the correspondence. [192859]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008, managers at the Tax Credit office replied to around 8,000 inquiries which they had received direct from hon. Members.

I have asked the TCO director to write to my hon. Friend on his second point.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what strategic business objectives he has set for Northern Rock. [192149]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor gave on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1893.

Prostate Cancer: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [193338]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [193338]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of prostate are for the year 2005. Figures for 2001-2005 for males in the county of Lancashire are in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, county of Lancashire, 2001-05

	Number
2001	731
2002	633
2003	728
2004	846
2005	874

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Retail Prices Index

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a specific retail price index measure for pensioners to take account of differential spending patterns compared to the general population. [192494]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a specific retail price index measure for pensioners to take account of differential spending patterns compared to the general population. (192494)

The retail prices index (RPI) is an average measure of change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption by the vast majority of households in the UK. There are no plans to introduce an index to represent the specific spending patterns of pensioners. It is recognized that very few individuals will conform to an average profile, as used in the RPI and it is for this reason that ONS has produced a personal inflation calculator, based on the RPI. It allows individuals to input their own spending on the main categories of good and services, and then it reassembles the RPI price indices using these expenditure patterns. This gives an indication of an individual's personal inflation rate.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will initiate a study of the use of Liechtenstein financial entities for the purposes of UK tax avoidance. [192012]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC constantly reviews financial entities which are used for tax avoidance.

Tax Yields: Bingo

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average annual employment-related revenue for the Exchequer from *(a)* PAYE and *(b)* national insurance contributions from a bingo club. [192933]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons tax returns are transferred between HM Revenue and Customs offices; [193330]

(2) how many tax returns were lost in transfer between HM Revenue and Customs offices in each of the last five years; [193331]

(3) what procedures are in place to record the transfer of tax returns between HM Revenue and Customs offices. [193332]

Jane Kennedy: Under the terms of the Taxes Management Act 1970 (1970 c 9) taxpayers may deliver their self assessment tax return to any HMRC office. Where paper tax returns are received in offices which are not the processing office HMRC transfer them to the appropriate office. Returns may also be moved between offices to make the most efficient use of processing resources and staff skills.

HMRC transfer tax returns between their offices using their internal 'Taxpost' systems. Thousands of items are moved through this system every day and individual items are generally not recorded.

Information on the number of lost tax returns is not recorded centrally.

VAT: Business

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of HM Revenue and Customs performance in repaying VAT owed to UK businesses. [193353]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to paying correct repayment claims without undue delay. It operates to a published target to authorise at least 90 per cent. of correct repayment returns within 10 working days of their receipt. At the same time, HMRC makes clear to businesses that it will carry out checks and apply safeguards to ensure that claims are legitimate and accurate. In both 2005-06 and 2006-07 the target was met.

VAT: Leisure

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give private companies running public leisure facilities the same VAT arrangements as leisure trusts running similar facilities. [193216]

Jane Kennedy: VAT exemption applies to the supply of sporting services by non-profit making bodies. Our European VAT agreements do not allow us to extend exemption to similar supplies made by commercial organisations.

VAT: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of reducing to 5 per cent. the rate of VAT on upper body, badged items of school uniform for all school children under 18 years old. [193340]

Jane Kennedy: No estimate has been made. Our European VAT agreements, signed by successive governments, do not allow us to introduce a reduced VAT rate for those badged items of school uniform that are not already VAT zero-rated.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals there have been in relation to decisions on tax credits since 2003. [190017]

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many appeals against tax credit awards were made by households with *(a)* one individual, *(b)* a lone parent with dependent children, *(c)* a couple with no children and *(d)* a couple with children in each financial year since their inception; [192138]

(2) how many appeals against tax credit awards were made for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each financial year since their inception. [192139]

Jane Kennedy: Customers can contact HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to appeal if they think their tax credits award is wrong. The Department will seek to agree the amount of the award with the customer and make the correct payment.

Information concerning appeals can be found in the HMRC leaflet WTC/AP "How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award" which is available on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf

The level of detail requested by the hon. Members is not available but the numbers of households that have appealed against a tax credits decision in each year from April 2003 to February 2008 inclusive are provided in the following table:

April to March	*Number of appeals received (rounded to the nearest 5)*
2003-04	33,700
2004-05	44,100
2005-06	23,430
2006-07	10,540
2007-08 (to 29 February)	8,900
Total	120,670

Welfare Tax Credits: Foreigners

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in tax credits to *(a)* overseas nationals, *(b)* non-British nationals of EU countries and *(c)* nationals of EU8 countries in each of the last five years. [193418]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information is *(a)* collected and *(b)* has been held for the last five years on (i) residency and (ii) nationality related tax credit fraud by overseas nationals; and if he will make a statement. [193419]

Jane Kennedy: This requested information is not available.

JUSTICE

Magistrates

12. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to encourage more people from disadvantaged communities to become magistrates. [192765]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to a magistracy reflective of our diverse communities. My Department has taken forward a number of initiatives to support greater diversity, including working with employers to encourage them to release employees to serve as magistrates, more informative advertising and application materials to raise the profile of recruitment, a dedicated magistrates website and support for awareness raising schemes such as the magistrates shadowing scheme. In addition, local advisory committees, who recruit and select magistrates, are required to target recruitment towards any groups under-represented in their respective areas.

House of Lords Reform

13. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in his consideration of House of Lords reform, what assessment he has made of the experience of other countries which have religious leaders in their parliaments. [192766]

Mr. Wills: The UK is unique in Europe in having reserved places in Parliament for religious leaders.

21. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made by the cross-party working group on House of Lords reform; and if he will make a statement. [192774]

Mr. Straw: The cross-party group on House of Lords reform has met four times since the beginning of the year. It has made progress on many major questions on reforming the other place. Its work will be reflected in the White Paper on Lords reform due to be published before the summer recess.

Sentencing Guidelines

14. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely impact on the number of people sent to prison of the new guidance on sentences for offences of assault. [192767]

Maria Eagle: The Sentencing Guidelines Council published guidelines on assault against the person last month. These largely reflect existing Court of Appeal guidelines and current sentencing practice and trends. The Government do not therefore expect significant change in the number of people sent to prison for these offences.

Bilingual Juries: Wales

15. **Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on provision for bilingual juries in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [192768]

Maria Eagle: We are considering the provision of bilingual juries in Wales and intend to make a statement in due course.

Governance of Britain

17. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to consult on the proposals in the Governance of Britain Green Paper by means of digital television and the internet. [192770]

Mr. Wills: We have set up the Governance of Britain website to provide information and updates on proposals in the Green Paper. The site will also give people the opportunity to contribute to discussion and debate. We do not intend to consult by means of digital television.

Armed Forces: Inquests

18. **Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been to the public purse of inquests into the deaths of members of the armed forces killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan since 19 March 2003. [192771]

Bridget Prentice: The cost to the public purse is not kept centrally. Costs have been met by individual local authorities in respect of coroners who have conducted inquests. Other costs have been met by the Ministry of Defence in respect of support provided to families and where as an Interested Person it has engaged legal representation, and by the Legal Services Commission in respect of representation of bereaved families at inquests. Central Government funding has also been provided since June 2006 to the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and Swindon coroners, because of the singular burden in these jurisdictions in consequence of the decision to repatriate overseas military fatalities via RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and, since 1 April 2007, via RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. The total costs authorised in relation to legally aided representation for families at inquests into military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan are around £100,000 since 19 March 2003. To date, £385,112 has been spent by central Government in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. Between 2003 and 2007, the costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence on its own legal representation amounted £1,160,281.66. This figure includes external legal advice on inquest-related matters, as well as costs for representation at inquests. This is normally when potentially complex issues could arise and MOD Counsel could assist the Court in the relevant questioning of witnesses to elicit as clear and full an understanding as possible of what took place. The costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence on support to bereaved families are not kept centrally.

Emergency Accommodation: Prisoners

19. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide additional emergency accommodation for prisoners. [192772]

Mr. Hanson: In addition to prison establishments, a limited number of police cells have been made available to help ensure that exceptional population pressures can be managed safely and securely. Arrangements are in place for a small number of court cells to be used as a contingency of last resort when required.

There are no other forms of temporary or emergency accommodation used for prisoners.

Open Prisons

20. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instigate a review of the effectiveness of open prisons in ensuring prisoners do not abscond. [192773]

Mr. Hanson: No. All those located in open conditions have been risk assessed and categorised as being of low risk to the public. Time spent in open prisons affords prisoners the opportunity to find work, re-establish family ties, reintegrate into the community and ensure housing needs are met. For long-term prisoners, these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

The number of absconds is at its lowest level since centralised reporting of this type of incident began in 1995. Since then, the number of absconds has fallen steadily across most years. In the last two years, the number of absconds recorded has been just over half the levels recorded in 1997.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many available places in open prisons there were at the latest date for which figures are available. [192556]

Mr. Hanson: As of 7 March 2008, there were 88 available places in the adult male open prison estate.

War Pensions Appeals

22. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes the Government plans to make to tribunals on war pensions appeals. [192775]

Bridget Prentice: Existing judges and members of the pensions appeal tribunal will transfer to the proposed new first-tier tribunal, where they will continue to hear war pensions appeals. We will also extend appeal rights by providing a new onward right of appeal from the first-tier tribunal to the upper tribunal in assessment cases.

Coroners

23. **Stephen Pound:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the objectives of his policy on the coroners' system are; and if he will make a statement. [192776]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to reforming the coroner service for England and Wales, and to making non-legislative improvements ahead of a Coroners Bill. Both legislative and non-legislative changes are underpinned by three main aims: an improved service for bereaved families and others touched by the service; a service with national leadership, with the best features of a locally based service; and more effective investigations.

Community Sentences

24. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the use of community sentences. [192777]

Mr. Hanson: Between 1995 and 2005, the total number of community sentences given by courts increased by more than 50 per cent. We expect these trends to continue. The Government have recently re-affirmed their commitment to providing the courts with tough and effective alternatives to short-term custody, including maximising the use of community sentences to reduce drug misuse.

Prison Officers: Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of pay scales for prison officers in England; and if he will make a statement. [192757]

Maria Eagle: Pay levels for prison officers fall within the remit of the independent Prison Service Pay Review Body. Their 2008 recommendations were accepted in full and announced in a statement by my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Straw) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-87WS.

Prison Building Programme

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the Government's prison building programme on the Isle of Wight and nationally. [192769]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have announced a programme to provide an additional 20,000 prison places and increase overall capacity to just over 96,000 by 2014. The programme has already provided 2,162 places, and will provide a further 2,409 places this year.

On the Isle of Wight we delivered 40 places at HM Prison Albany last month and around 28 places are scheduled for delivery at HM Prison Parkhurst in July.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192517]

Maria Eagle: The ex-DCA does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. A system has recently been put in place to record the information, although not to the detail requested in this question.

	August-December 2006	*January-December 2007*
Heard	5	13
Upheld	1	1
Percentage	20	8

For NOMS and OCJR, the information has only been collected centrally since 2005, in which time there have been no appeals. To obtain information prior to this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The Prison Service does not hold the information centrally, and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

ClearSprings Management

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance has been given to ClearSprings Management Ltd on the appropriateness of placements for people who are homeless and bailed by the courts; [193287]

(2) whether the Government contract with ClearSprings Management Ltd includes the housing of prisoners on remand in the community; [193288]

(3) if he will place in the Library the guidelines followed by ClearSprings Management Ltd in consulting on placing homeless people bailed by the courts in the community. [193289]

Mr. Hanson: The regional offender managers, and the director of offender management for Wales, have identified in which towns accommodation is needed, based on the distribution of origins of prisoners. It is for ClearSprings to seek properties in those locations. ClearSprings are required to consult the local authority, police and the Probation Service in selecting properties, in order to avoid inappropriate locations.

By definition, those remanded on bail in the community are not prisoners, and they may not have been held in prison before being bailed by the courts. The contract with ClearSprings is to provide housing and support in the community for defendants whom the courts have remanded on bail, and for sentenced prisoners who have been released on home detention curfew by the prison governor.

An unpriced copy of the contract, containing the requirements to ClearSprings for consultation, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who was responsible for the decision to locate MW7217 Ameyaw on Osprey Unit at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham in May 2005; for what reason that decision was taken; and if he will make a statement. [192682]

Maria Eagle: It is not Prison Service policy to comment on individual prisoners or members of staff.

General Elections

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to limit further national expenditure by political parties at general elections. [192735]

Mr. Straw: In line with the commitment made in the Queen's Speech on 6 November, the Government will in due course bring forward proposals on party finance and expenditure.

Offenders: Bail Hostels

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many violent incidents were recorded at properties operated by ClearSprings Ltd under the Bail and Accommodation Support Service in each of the last three years; [192554]

(2) how many proposals to operate bail houses through the Bail and Accommodation Support Service were withdrawn by ClearSprings Ltd in each month since January 2007; [192555]

(3) how many offenders were placed in properties in Cornwall by the Bail and Accommodation Support Service in each of the last five years; and what the average period of their detention was, broken down by category of offence; [192557]

(4) how many *(a)* properties were used by and *(b)* beds were available through the Bail and Accommodation Support Service in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of these were managed by (i) ClearSprings Management and (ii) other private contractors in (A) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and (B) Cornwall; [192558]

(5) how many people *(a)* on bail and *(b)* on home detention curfew were provided with accommodation by (i) the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, (ii) ClearSprings and (iii) other private contractors in (A) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and (B) Cornwall in each month since July 2007; [192559]

(6) what the *(a)* average cost per person per night and *(b)* cost per month of providing bail and home detention accommodation through (i) the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, (ii) ClearSprings Management and (iii) other private contractors was in (A) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and (B) Cornwall in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [192560]

Mr. Hanson: The Bail Accommodation and Support Service has been in operation only since 18 June 2007. From that date until 6 March 2008 734 people have been released into the service. Six incidents involving violence at ClearSprings addresses have been reported and, if appropriate, service users have been recalled to prison, had their bail revoked or been offered support as victims.

ClearSprings have withdrawn four properties from service, none of which had been occupied. Three were withdrawn in January 2008 and one in February 2008.

No offenders have yet been placed in properties in Cornwall.

All Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties are managed by ClearSprings. No properties have been made available or used in Cornwall.

The average cost per person per night for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in January 2008 was £65 for the service across England and Wales.

Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* young and *(b)* adult offenders have been sentenced to terms of immediate custody of six months or less in the last five years for which records are available. [192552]

Mr. Hanson: The latest published data for 2006 are included in the following table. The figures for 2007 will be published later in the year.

Number of persons[1] sentenced to custody for less than or equal to six months, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06

		Number of persons
	Type of offender	
	Juveniles[2]	*Adult[3]*
2002	3,990	67,971
2003	3,566	66,686
2004	3,603	64,596
2005	3,461	60,395
2006	3,448	55,686

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] 10 to 17-year-olds.
[3] 18 years and older.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice
6 March 2008
Ref: PQ(RN)116-08

Prisoners: Police Custody

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales were in *(a)* police and *(b)* court cells at the latest available date. [192581]

Mr. Straw: On the night of Thursday/Friday 6/7 March there were 52 prisoners held in police cells under Operation Safeguard and none held in court cells.

Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce working wings in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [192497]

Mr. Straw: The Government's priorities for increasing the skills and employment outcomes of offenders are outlined in the document 'Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps' published in December 2006 and 'Prison Policy Update' in January 2008. It emphasises the need to make many prisons places of work and learning.

We have recently launched our plans to increase the range of constructive work available to offenders inside prison, and in turn their job opportunities in the community. Through the Reducing Re-offending Corporate Alliance over 100 employers are working with us to improve the employment and employability of offenders. We are seeking to engage private, public and voluntary organisations in providing a range of constructive work activities through prison workshops and industries. The Prisons Minister is to host a forum shortly to seek to expand this work.

There are more than 700 employers working with the Prison Service open and resettlement estate providing work experience and training to offenders as they near release.

The number of workshops and training centres in existing prisons obviously depends on the size, design and original purpose of the establishment. Training and/or work facilities are a key part of new designs of prisons for appropriate categories of prisoners. Some prisons, for example Category C prisons, are dedicated as whole prisons to training, work and rehabilitation.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mechanisms to prevent inmates identified in an *(a)* F2058 form and *(b)* unit observation book from associating; what the reasons are for inmates not being permitted to associate; under what circumstances inmates who have been identified as unsuitable for association may remain on the same unit or wing and not be transferred to an alternative location; who is responsible for determining which inmate should be re-located in those circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [192685]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners may be denied association for contravening prison rules, to prevent bullying or other threats to good order and discipline in the prison or for medical reasons or as a result of specific intelligence or requests from the police or courts to keep prisoners apart. Prisoners at risk of attack may at their own request be held without association while an alternative location is found for them. Those prisoners on the basic level of the incentives and earned privilege scheme may also be denied association.

Those committing less serious breaches of discipline may be held without association as an alternative to being held in the segregation unit. Prisoners at risk of attack from other prisoners may be held on normal location, with limited or no association, if dedicated units for these prisoners are full. The duty governor has overall responsibility for decisions on the allocation of prisoners. I am satisfied that these arrangements are working despite the increased prisoner population.

Prisons: Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost of a prison place was in England and Wales in an *(a)* dispersal, *(b)* category B, *(c)* category C and *(d)* open prison in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [192583]

Mr. Hanson: The latest available cost per place figures are shown in the 2006-07 annual report and accounts. The cost per place for prisons in each of the categories listed in the question is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Cost per place

Function name	£
Male dispersal	47,613
Male category B	27,713
Male category C	22,707
Open Prisons	20,687

Prisons: Population

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population in England and Wales was at the latest date available. [192579]

Mr. Straw: On 7 March 2008 the prison population was 81,910 excluding those held overnight in police cells.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison capacity in England and Wales was at the latest date available. [192580]

Mr. Straw: Useable operational capacity in prisons in England and Wales on 7 March was 81,754. This figure is exclusive of places in police cells available through Operation Safeguard.

Probation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to implement the Intensive Domestic Abuse programme for those on probation; and if he will make a statement. [192633]

Mr. Hanson: The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) has already been implemented. All probation areas in England and Wales are equipped to deliver either IDAP or the Community Domestic Violence Programme. IDAP is normally delivered at the rate of one session a week, but three probation areas are piloting a more intense pattern of delivery. Whether we promote this intensive method will depend on the outcome of the evaluation, which is expected shortly.

Probation Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the caseload of the Probation Service in England and Wales was at the latest date available, broken down by *(a)* supervision orders and *(b)* licence and parole. [192582]

Mr. Hanson: At 30 September 2007, the number of offenders supervised by the Probation Service in England and Wales under all court orders was 149,777. The number supervised on all post release licence was 28,113.

These figures are taken from table 6 the Probation Statistics Quarterly Brief, July to September 2007, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of those leaving Probation Service employment who will be replaced in the next two financial years; [192639]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of probation officers to be made redundant by the Probation Service in 2007-08, broken down by grade. [192698]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available to answer this question as staffing requirements are currently being reviewed throughout the Probation Service.

To date, long-term work force planning has been conducted in a limited manner within the Probation Service and has largely been undertaken in concert with the annual intake on to the Diploma in Probation Studies (DiPS), which is led by NOMS probation area co-ordination unit. Responsibility for all other recruitment and work force planning rests with each of the individual probation areas. With the forthcoming cessation of the DiPS and the development and implementation of its replacement, the process by which work force planning will be conducted, nationally and locally, is currently being reviewed in order to align it to future arrangements.

Probation Service: Employment

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Probation Service staff left the service during 2007-08; and how many of those were replaced, broken down by Probation Service area. [192640]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of starters and leavers in the NPS is currently only available up to June 2007. The following table shows the number of starters and leavers in each probation area between July 2006 and June 2007.

	Q2 2006-07		*Q3 2006-07*		*Q4 2006-07*		*Q1 2007-08*	
Area	*Starters*	*Leavers*	*Starters*	*Leavers*	*Starters*	*Leavers*	*Starters*	*Leavers*
Avon and Somerset	19.00	17.00	13.80	13.50	4.60	16.10	4.60	9.90
Bedfordshire	2.40	2.80	0.70	5.30	1.20	4.60	3.44	6.00
Cambridgeshire	4.20	3.01	4.50	3.00	2.00	4.42	4.99	3.00
Cheshire	5.86	8.08	11.32	5.90	6.82	11.81	6.62	13.98
Cumbria	7.27	3.04	7.00	4.00	1.23	4.23	7.36	12.81
Derbyshire	0.00	5.50	3.30	3.50	2.00	0.60	0.00	5.00
Devon and Cornwall	11.50	6.46	8.60	10.61	11.70	6.46	12.70	14.71
Dorset	1.00	6.00	3.00	2.00	5.10	4.00	6.00	7.00
Durham	2.20	3.00	13.14	2.28	6.83	5.00	5.00	6.00
Dyfed Powys	22.18	2.30	1.40	2.36	0.00	1.00	1.24	6.90
Essex	12.50	7.10	17.50	11.10	6.40	10.40	13.50	22.90
Gloucestershire	2.96	5.81	14.68	6.00	1.00	7.88	2.60	4.74
Greater Manchester	25.00	46.00	77.00	35.00	14.00	37.00	6.00	40.00
Gwent	17.90	4.20	2.50	3.50	1.60	3.60	0.00	0.00
Hampshire	12.60	17.13	23.86	12.10	4.20	12.61	9.90	22.25
Hertfordshire	14.20	11.00	17.60	6.10	6.20	9.04	11.82	9.30
Humberside	1.00	10.31	16.00	9.23	3.58	8.91	0.39	10.91
Kent	9.60	14.02	29.60	13.71	3.77	10.21	1.95	10.42
Lancashire	3.50	11.00	9.50	16.80	4.80	11.21	11.50	11.30
Leicestershire	7.00	8.00	8.90	7.30	8.10	7.60	8.50	11.20
Lincolnshire	5.40	9.00	13.00	2.65	2.50	2.10	1.00	4.00
London	94.24	61.80	97.00	44.57	76.80	65.58	9.10	58.19
Merseyside	4.50	18.50	12.00	8.49	0.00	11.00	1.60	20.90
Norfolk	5.00	14.00	15.00	4.00	3.00	11.00	6.00	13.30
North Wales	11.00	5.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	3.00	2.00	2.80
North Yorkshire	5.00	5.50	9.50	2.50	5.00	2.00	8.00	8.00
Northamptonshire	0.00	0.00	13.32	6.00	6.31	6.90	9.30	10.95
Northumbria	18.41	9.24	10.41	13.00	8.85	13.61	9.09	25.14

Area	Q2 2006-07		Q3 2006-07		Q4 2006-07		Q1 2007-08	
	Starters	Leavers	Starters	Leavers	Starters	Leavers	Starters	Leavers
Nottinghamshire	14.90	8.90	32.70	32.50	7.50	20.80	[illegible]	24.90
South Wales	26.98	9.50	1.00	10.50	4.00	7.60	7.85	3.20
South Yorkshire	10.90	24.80	17.00	16.60	3.00	19.30	0.00	14.00
Staffordshire	3.00	5.00	2.00	5.00	10.50	0.00	3.30	5.30
Suffolk	4.60	4.70	3.22	1.86	0.61	6.61	2.00	5.00
Surrey	15.40	15.30	11.53	8.90	8.86	6.90	7.32	8.49
Sussex	9.00	12.00	28.00	5.00	8.00	8.00	5.00	17.00
Teesside	2.20	12.00	13.30	6.40	9.80	4.40	3.00	5.00
Thames Valley	20.00	21.60	33.20	30.70	17.70	20.10	8.60	26.60
Warwickshire	3.18	7.10	5.00	7.00	0.00	2.50	2.00	4.00
West Mercia	17.02	13.43	10.41	7.44	2.49	16.47	21.59	13.24
West Midlands	22.81	26.53	11.82	33.61	41.99	32.44	29.38	15.34
West Yorkshire	24.00	26.00	44.00	24.00	24.00	13.00	17.00	21.00
Wiltshire	6.00	6.60	17.60	10.30	17.60	10.30	19.20	16.10
NPS	505.41	508.76	687.41	456.81	353.64	460.28	298.24	550.77

Rehabilitation Services

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role his special advisers play in contracting for rehabilitation services. [192499]

Mr. Straw: None.

Re-offenders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account was taken of "A Five Year Strategy for Protecting the Public and Reducing Re-offending", published in February 2006, in producing his Department's Strategic Plan for Reducing Re-offending 2008-2011; and what progress has been made on the 2006 Strategy's recommendations on *(a)* more use of intermittent custody for people with family responsibilities and *(b)* the vision for community prisons. [192618]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have just completed their consultation on the new Strategic Plan for Reducing Re-offending 2008-11. The plan will be published in the late spring and will effectively link cross government partners to the delivery of objectives to reduce re-offending and protect the public. The consultation period ensured that the Government gathered the views of our partners at a national, regional and local level on how we can best build on our successes to date, such as the roll out of offender management for those offenders who pose the greatest risk of harm to the public, and working with Local Strategic Partnerships in negotiations around Local Area Agreements, both actions contained in the Five Year Strategy for Protecting the Public and Reducing Re-offending.

In terms of the two specific recommendations highlighted:

(a) Intermittent custody: following trials of intermittent custody at HMP Kirkham and HMP Motion Hall from January 2004 to November 2006, the Government decided to make no further use of the sentence for the time being.

(b) Community prisons: the current strategy for the prison estate was outlined in "Penal Policy—a background paper" published on 9 May 2007. In her "Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System" Baroness Corston recommended that existing women's prisons should be replaced with suitable, geographically dispersed, small, multi-functional custodial centres. Such centres have aspects in common with a community prison concept. A small project is presently under way as part of the Government's response to the report of Baroness Corston looking at the merits of a pilot unit to test how a small, multi-functional, custodial centre for women might work.

Re-offenders: Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 730W, to the hon. Member for Harborough, on re-offenders: costs, what methodology the Social Exclusion Unit used to estimate the costs of crime committed by ex-prisoners in its 2002 estimate. [192457]

Mr. Hanson: The Social Exclusion Unit used the overall costs of crime calculated by the Home Office (£60 billion), and estimated that at least 18 per cent. of total crime is accounted for by re-offending by recent ex-prisoners. Home Office cost of crime estimates used by the Social Exclusion Unit are published in: "The Economic Social Costs of Crime", Home Office Research Study 217. These estimates have since been updated by the Home Office with methodological improvements and are published in: "The Economic Social Costs of Crime against Individuals and Households 2003-04", Home Office Online Report 30/05.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 730W, to the hon. Member for Harborough, on re-offenders: costs, what estimate he has made of the cost of crime committed by ex-prisoners in England and Wales in each of the last five years, using the methodology used by the Social Exclusion Unit in its 2002 estimate. [192458]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no year-on-year estimates of the costs of crime or re-offending to the economy, although the Home Office published an estimate of the total cost of crime to individuals and households in 2003-04, part of which will be attributable to re-offending. Ministry of Justice analysts are currently developing the knowledge-base concerning the costs of re-offending and how this varies by the persistence and frequency of re-offending and the type of offences committed.

Sentencing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons have been sentenced by the courts to a period of less than 12 months in custody in 2008; [192586]

(2) how many persons were sentenced to a period of custody of less than 12 months in each quarter in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [192587]

Mr. Hanson: The latest published data are for 2006 and can be found in the following table. The figures for 2007 will be published later in the year. Figures for 2008 will be published towards the end of 2009.

Number of persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody where the sentence length is less than 12 months, all courts, England and Wales, 2006

	Number of persons
Quarter 1	17,548
Quarter 2	16,214
Quarter 3	16,381
Quarter 4	14,719

[1] Principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:—

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice
6 March 2008
Ref: PQ(RN)114-08

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were sentenced by magistrates to a term of imprisonment of less than 12 months between January 2007 and January 2008. [192610]

Mr. Hanson: The latest published data are for 2006. The figures for 2007 will be published later in the year. Figures for 2008 will be published towards the end of 2009. The published information can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm.

Sentencing: Domestic Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were given a custodial sentence for domestic violence offences in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192676]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to identify separately domestic violence offences on the Court Proceedings Database as the circumstances of offences are not collected centrally.

Young Offenders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many first-time entrants into the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 years there were in each of the last three years. [191389]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Data collected from youth offending teams in England and Wales, and verified by the Youth Justice Board, indicate that there were 97,329 first-time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10 to 17 in 2005-06 (the first year for which data are available), and 93,730 during 2006-07. Figures for 2007-08 will be published later this year. Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile the figures, the data are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms exist for the transfer of inmates from young offender institutions to adult prison custody; under what circumstances inmates are transferred; on how many occasions transfers took place in each of the last 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [192683]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners are normally moved from the young adult estate to the adult estate when they reach age 21. Prison Service Instruction 45/2004 includes provision for assessments of young adult prisoners of any age who are criminally and behaviourally sophisticated beyond their years, and may require the security of the adult estate. Such a move would require agreement by the area manager. Figures on the number of such transfers are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by carrying out a national survey of young adult prisons.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 March 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Regional Government: Select Committees

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House what progress has been made on the establishment of regional select committees; and if she will make a statement. [193298]

Helen Goodman: This matter is being examined by the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House. Proposals will be brought to the House in due course in the light of the Committee's report.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

DNA: International Co-operation

David Davis: To ask the Solicitor-General when the Crown Prosecution Service's inquiry into its treatment of a Dutch request to check DNA data will be completed; and if she will make a statement. [192784]

The Solicitor-General: As soon as she was made aware of an issue surrounding the disk containing the 2,159 crime scene profiles from unsolved crimes submitted by the Dutch authorities, my right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General ordered the CPS to conduct an urgent inquiry as to what happened and to report to her as soon as possible. The CPS is working closely with the police on this issue and the inquiry is not yet complete. The inquiry has three strands and it is expected that two of these strands will be completed by the end of March 2008.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191482]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the annex pertaining to my Department in Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm 7227).

I would also refer to the Department's Value for Money Delivery Agreement

www.nio.gov.uk/final_published_vfm_-_feb_08.pdf

which outlines plans to deliver £108 million of savings by March 2011. The first update on progress will be published by the Department in its autumn performance report.

Departmental Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many receptions were held at 11 Millbank in each of the last five years. [187221]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2148-249W. There have been no further receptions subsequent to this answer.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191260]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has conducted three regulatory impact assessments in the last 12 months:

1. Draft Criminal Justice Order 2008;
2. PSNI (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2008; and
3. The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations (Northern Ireland). Although this is a 1997 policy it has not yet been implemented.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192105]

Mr. Woodward: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193395]

Mr. Woodward: As at 25 February 2008 10 questions remained unanswered for between two and four weeks and three questions remained unanswered for between six and eight weeks. None of these questions were for Named Day answer.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many category *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 sex offenders there are (i) in custody and (ii) resident in the community in each district council area in Northern Ireland. [190033]

Paul Goggins: As of 1 February 2008 the number of sex offenders in custody assessed under the multi-agency sex offender risk assessment and management (MASRAM) arrangements is shown in the following table.

	Number
Category 1 (low risk)	6
Category 2 (medium risk)	79
Category 3 (high risk)	30

The following table updates the information provided in the annual report 'Managing the Risk' published last year by the Northern Ireland Sex Offender Strategic Management Committee. It also provides information on risk categories of offenders assessed under the MASRAM arrangements resident in police command areas as at 26 February 2008.

Sex offenders by police command area assessed under the MASRAM arrangements

Police command area	*Category 1 (low risk)*	*Category 2 (medium risk)*	*Category 3 (high risk)*	*Total*
Antrim	18	4	0	22
Ards	19	6	0	25
Armagh	14	6	0	20
Ballymena	21	5	0	26
Ballymoney	8	3	0	11
Banbridge	10	2	0	12
Carrickfergus	8	1	0	9
Castlereagh	9	5	0	14
Coleraine	20	12	0	32
Cookstown	2	3	0	5
Craigavon	26	13	0	39
Down	26	8	1	35
Dungannon and South Tyrone	6	3	0	9
East Belfast	23	12	0	35
Fermanagh	13	13	0	26
Foyle	29	22	0	51
Larne	7	1	0	8
Lisburn	29	12	0	41
Limavady	6	8	0	14
Magherafelt	3	4	0	7
Moyle	3	2	0	5
Newtownabbey	13	6	0	19
Newry and Mourne	18	10	0	28
North Belfast	38	16	2	56
North Down	23	14	0	37
Omagh	13	9	1	23
South Belfast	64	50	2	116
Strabane	11	4	0	15
West Belfast	14	3	0	17

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to her answer of the 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2309W, on Olympic Games 2012: Essex, how many times the Nations and Regions Group has met since it was established. [193687]

Tessa Jowell: The Nations and Regions Group first met in May 2004, before London was confirmed as the location for the 2012 games. Its role then was to bring substance to our bid commitment that we would spread the benefits from the 2012 games across the UK, and also to generate support within the UK for London's bid. It met a total of four times before July 2005, when London's success was confirmed.

Since July 2005, the group has continued to meet and has developed more formal operating and governance arrangements. It has met a further 12 times and will continue to meet quarterly. The group's purpose is to deliver against the bid commitment to maximise the levels of engagement and benefit across the UK from the 2012 games, which was a key component of our bid success.

Olympic Games 2012: Landscaping

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many companies she expects to undertake work on landscaping contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. [192446]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority will appoint three main contractors to undertake the management of landscaping for the 2012 Olympic Park—the North Park contract, the South Park contract and the Greenway contract. For off-park venues, the responsibility for landscaping will rest with the main contractor appointed to each venue. The ODA would then expect each main contractor to use subcontractors and suppliers to carry out the required works.

Until the main contractors have been appointed, I cannot say how many companies will be involved, as this will depend on how the works are then phased and split with each contractor.

To help businesses access 2012-related contracts, the London 2012 Business Network was launched in January of this year. A key part of this is CompeteFor, an online brokerage service matches the profiles of suppliers and buyers, enabling businesses to directly compete for contracts, including landscaping contracts. I would encourage companies in your constituency to take advantage of this opportunity.

Olympic Games 2012: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps the Olympic Delivery Authority is taking to ensure a satisfactory interchange between the international and domestic stations at Stratford; and what specific measures will be in place at the time of the commencement of new high-speed domestic services. [192965]

Tessa Jowell: The passenger interchange between Stratford international and regional stations is a matter for London and Continental Railways (LCR) and the developers of zone 1 of the Stratford City site, Westfield. Their obligation around providing this interchange is laid down by a Transport and Works Act Order 2001 from the Secretary of State for Transport and section 106 obligations from the London borough of Newham.

The Olympic Delivery Authority's independent planning committee will consider and determine the applications made by Westfield including any specific measures that are put in place for the commencement of the domestic services where those measures differ to the permanent interchange proposal.

It is expected currently that the high-speed domestic services to Stratford international will commence commercial operations in late 2009. The DLR extension between Stratford regional and Stratford international is programmed to commence services in mid-2010.

The Olympic Delivery Authority has also sought to facilitate better interchange between the stations by co-funding a new entrance to Stratford international at the eastern end of the station. This scheme is being funded with the Department for Transport and Union Railways North (a subsidiary of London and Continental Railways) and is due for completion in time for the commencement of high-speed domestic services.

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what contingency plans she has made to provide assistance to those who survive a future terrorist attack in the UK. [192522]

Tessa Jowell: The Humanitarian Assistance Unit is working closely with regional and local resilience teams to ensure that their plans for future emergencies include the provision of humanitarian assistance. We have published guidance and research which reflects the lessons we have learnt from previous incidents and identifies good practice around the country.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Community Fund: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects in Tamworth constituency have received community fund grants [193605]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Grants totalling £3,401,356 have been awarded by the Community Fund to the Tamworth constituency and are listed in the following table.

The information is location specific. That is, the list includes only grants that are specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency—to headquarters offices for example—but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

Grants awarded by the Community Fund to the constituency of Tamworth

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Shenstone Day Care Centre	19 December 1995	2,500
Housing Community Chest - Tamworth	17 December 1996	13,000
Tamworth Sea Cadets	18 September 1997	181,014
South East Staffordshire Centre for Integrated Living	18 September1997	197,130
Stonnall Village Hall	30 October 1998	15,000
1st Hopwas Scout Group	7 January 1999	152,000
Tamworth Male voice Choir	20 April 1999	5,000
Shenstone Village Hall	27 April 1999	23,462
Mercian Ward Community Association	17 June 1999	2,387
Mile Oak Sea Scout Group	17 June 1999	3,065
The Dark Ages Charitable Trust	9 September 1999	5,000
Hopwas Playing Field Committee	11 November 1999	5,000
Harlaston Village Hall Management Committee	26 November 1999	4,000
Bancroft Community Association	26 November 1999	5,000
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	2 December 1999	182,187
Argyle Pre-School Nursery	27 January 2000	750
The National Association for Special educational Needs NASEN	27 January 2000	5,000
Tamworth Division Guide Association	27 January 2000	2,018
Staffordshire Scouts International Friendship Camp 2000	31 March 2000	5,000
Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA)	31 March 2000	2,357
Tamworth Talking Newspaper	31 March 2000	5,000
4th Tamworth (St. Editha's) Scout Group	31 March 2000	4,616
Tamworth Third Age	31 March 2000	4,490
Edingdale Pre-School Playgroup	15 June 2000	500
Colon Green Community Hall Association	15 June 2000	5,000
Fazeley Pre-School	15 June 2000	1,000
Mile Oak Munchkins Pre School	15 June 2000	3,450

Grants awarded by the Community Fund to the constituency of Tamworth

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Tamworth Community Service Council	13 July 2000	134,097
Shenstone Playing Fields Management Committee	6 September 2000	3,755
Lichfield and District PLA Branch Exec Sub-Committee	6 September 2000	4,998
Tamworth Sea Cadets	25 September 2000	5,000
1122 (Marmion) Air Training Corps	25 September 2000	5,000
Age Concern Tamworth	1 November 2000	153,494
Shropshire County Scout Council	5 April 2001	5,000
Stonnall Pre-School Playgroup	5 April 2001	2,499
Colon Green Pre-School Nursery	5 July 2001	5,000
Wigginton (St. Leonard's) Scout Group	5 July 2001	4,993
Harlaston Village Hall Management Committee	5 July 2001	5,000
1st Hopwas Seoul Group	5 July 2001	5,000
54lh Birmingham Guides	5 July 2001	1,962
Home Start Tamworth	19 July 2001	82,146
Edingale Village Hall	14 September 2001	3,778
Glascote Advice Shop	21 November 2001	4,716
Parochial Church Council of Glascote and Stonydelph	24 January 2002	445,280
Stonnall Village Hall	31 January 2002	3,041
Glascote Platoon 'A' Coy Warwickshire ACF	18 April 2002	4,703
Tamworth Community Service Council	18 April 2002	4,275
Age Concern Tamworth	18 July 2002	86,551
Tamworth & District Citizens Advice Bureau	19 September 2002	200,991
Age Concern Tamworth	28 November 2002	32,614
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	20 March 2003	323,851
Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association	18 July 2003	216,480
Age Concern Tamworth	30 January 2004	23,364
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	30 January 2004	260,131
Edingale Village Hall	30 January 2004	26,385
Parochial Church Council of Glascote & Stonydelph	10 May 2005	60,000
Home Start Tamworth	10 May 2005	78,467
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	10 May 2005	104,819
Elford Village Hall	8 August 2005	204,350
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	8 August 2005	64,690

Departmental Studies

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 38W, on departmental studies, when each study began; when each was expected to be completed; what the current estimated completion date of each is; and when the results of each study will be published. [186357]

Margaret Hodge: With reference to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 38W, on departmental studies, all studies are now complete and details outlined in the following table.

Study	*Date study commenced*	*Original expected date of completion*	*Estimated publishing date*	*Date published*
Economic impact of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's cultural investment (renamed "A Framework for Evaluating Cultural Policy")	May 2006	September 2006	—	May 2007
Assessing the readiness of the social housing sector for digital switchover (renamed "Communal TV systems and Preparation for Digital Switchover")	August 2006	December 2006	—	January 2007
Governance of non-departmental government bodies[1]	November 2005	January 2006	n/a	n/a
Casino impacts scoping study (the Lancaster study)	July 2006	November 2006	—	February 2008
Sport's contribution to achieving wider social benefits	July 2006	October 2006	—	August 2007
Measuring elasticity of tourism demand	May 2006	May 2007	July 2008	—
International dimension of the creative economy (renamed " Framework for Understanding International Demand for the Creative Industries"	January 2007	June 2007	—	September 2007
Exploring creative industry spillovers	November 2006	June 2007	—	September 2007
Museums indicators revisions (renamed "Review of Performance Indicator Framework for National Museums and Galleries")	October 2006	December 2006	—	August 2007
Review of evidence base for delivering SP2/ PSA3—Culture on Demand"	September 2006	January 2007	—	July 2007

[1] The document 'Governance of non-departmental government bodies' has been placed in the Libraries of the House for information although not formally published.

National Lottery: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects were awarded funding by the Big Lottery Fund in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years.[1] [193604]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Grants awarded by the Big Lottery Fund and its predecessors, the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund, in each of the last five completed financial years to the Tamworth Constituency are listed in the following table.

The information is location specific. That is, the list includes only grants that are specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but are not otherwise related to it. The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

Grants awarded by the Big Lottery Fund and its predecessors the Community Fund and The New Opportunities Fund during each of the last five completed financial years to the constituency of Tamworth

There are no grants made by the Big Lottery Fund to the constituency of Tamworth in any of the last five completed financial years.

Community fund financial year 2002-03

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Glascote Platoon 'A' Coy Warwickshire ACF	18 April 2002	4,703
Tamworth Community Service Council	18 April 2002	4,275
Age Concern Tamworth	18 July 2002	86,551
Tamworth and District Citizens Advice Bureau	19 September 2002	200,991
Age Concern Tamworth	28 November 2002	32,614
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	20 March 2003	323,851

Community fund financial year 2003-04

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association	18 July 2003	216,480
Age Concern Tamworth	30 November 2004	23,364
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	30 January 2004	260,131
Edingale Village Hall	30 January 2004	26,385

There were no grants made by the Community Fund to the constituency of Tamworth in the financial year 2004-05.

Community fund financial year 2005-06

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Parochial Church Council of Glascote and Stonydelph	10 May 2005	60,000
Home Start Tamworth	10 May 2005	78,467
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	10 May 2005	104,819
Elford Village Hall	8 August 2005	204,350
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	8 August 2005	64,690

There are no grants made by the Community Fund to the constituency of Tamworth in the financial year 2006-07.

New opportunities fund 2002 -03

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Argyle Pre-School Nursery	18 April 2002	1,750
Oakhill Primary School	19 December 2002	10,000

There are no grants made by the New Opportunities Fund to the constituency of Tamworth in the financial year 2003-04 or 2004-05.

New opportunities fund 2005-06

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	10 October 2005	149,935

New opportunities fund 2006-07

Recipient	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Hodge Lane Conservation Group	9 October 2006	3,328

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members' Visitors

Sarah Teather: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the Commission will review the green card system used to alert hon. and right hon. Members about visitors to assess its effectiveness as a messaging tool; and if the Commission will take steps to ensure hon. Members' offices are alerted by telephone as soon as a green card is submitted. [192479]

Nick Harvey: I will ask the Serjeant at Arms to review the green card system and report back to the House of Commons Commission.

When a visitor submits a green card during a normal business day, a Doorkeeper will endeavour to reach the Member or his/her staff by telephone.

During mass lobbies, when the number of green cards submitted can exceed 1,000, it is not possible to make a personal telephone call in each case. The hon. Member may wish to be aware that when green cards are received in Members' Lobby during mass lobbies there are a number of options for being informed about the arrival of constituents.

Messages can be sent via:

pager

text to mobile phone

e-mail

fax

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[1] *[Official Report, 31 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 5MC.]*

illumination of a red flashing light on the Member's desk telephone, or the Member's staff telephone, indicating that there is an item on the Message Board in Members' Lobby.

Additionally, a Doorkeeper will take the green card messages around the Palace and the Portcullis House atrium to try to deliver them to Members personally. For further information, and to confirm how they wish to receive messages, Members are invited to contact the Messaging Administrator on extension 5678. Leaflets about this service are also available from the Doorkeepers in the Members' Lobby.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on security in the Palace of Westminster in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [192541]

Nick Harvey: The resource cost of security for the whole of the parliamentary estate is only available from 2001-02 following the introduction of resource accounting in that year. The figures are:

			Cost (£000)
	Commons	*Lords*	*Total*
2001-02	12,896	5,913	18,809
2002-03	15,319	6,928	22,247
2003-04	16,655	7,511	24,166
2004-05	18,110	8,122	26,232
2005-06	19,917	9,112	29,029
2006-07	20,292	9,313	29,605

In addition, there has been cash expenditure on a number of security related projects as follows:

	Cost (£000)
2001-02	199
2002-03	1,961
2003-04	1,201
2004-05	1,304
2005-06	3,719
2006-07	8,172

Costs are shared between the two Houses.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission under what circumstances a Palace of Westminster pass may be *(a)* suspended and *(b)* revoked; and if he will make a statement. [192543]

Nick Harvey: The information is as follows.

(a) A pass will be suspended if the Serjeant at Arms or her Deputy has reason to believe that a pass-holder who is not a Member has been convicted of a criminal offence or has engaged in behaviour or associations which create an expectation that the pass-holder's access to the parliamentary estate could be detrimental to the security or reputation of the House of Commons.

(b) A pass may be revoked if, following consultation with appropriate authorities or individuals, the expectation referred to in paragraph *(a)* is confirmed or, in the balance of probabilities, is considered to be likely.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females, broken down by age group, were (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted of trespass in the Palace of Westminster in each of the last three years for which information is available. [192617]

Nick Harvey: The Palace of Westminster became a designated site relating to Trespass under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 on 1 June 2007.

The only persons arrested for trespass have been the demonstrators on the roof on 27 February 2008. Five persons were arrested: female aged 20; female aged 23; male aged 27; male aged 34 and male aged 31.

Visitor Management

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what progress has been made in introducing an improved visitor management system; and if he will make a statement. [192542]

Nick Harvey: The new visitor management system is being trialled at the Derby Gate entrance to the estate. The system will be installed at two further entry points (1 Parliament Street and Black Rod's Garden) during March, with the full programme of installation due for completion by July 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of her Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182989]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government was established in May 2006. The advertising spend in the financial year 2006-07 was 0.12 per cent. of the Department's programme spend. The information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to her Department's budget. [192112]

Mr. Dhanda: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

English Partnerships: Vacant Land

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of land owned by English Partnerships is unused; and if she will make a statement. [193012]

Mr. Iain Wright: At English Partnerships' (EP) last annual valuation in April 2007, EP owned 8,500 hectares of land. EP plans to dispose of around 400 hectares for development during the 2007-08 financial year, mostly through market competition, as well as 565 hectares that have no potential for housing or commercial use, as amenity land.

English Partnerships brings forward its land for development in the usual way through the statutory planning regime, working with local authorities and other partners in both public and private sectors to support high quality sustainable growth in England by creating well-served mixed communities. EP also has a programme which purchases and sells Surplus Public Sector Land, including redundant hospital sites. This is in line with last year's Housing Green Paper, making a contribution towards the Government's ambition to see three million new homes built by 2020.

Health and Safety Executive

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 778W, on the Health and Safety Executive, for what reasons the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister did not communicate the warnings of the Health and Safety Executive in relation to certain water heaters to social landlords and private householders following the 2002 fatality. [178623]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister received information about the 2002 fatality following an approach by its officials to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). This information comprised a copy of the HSE factual report into the accident and a covering letter.

HSE has made it clear that at the time of the fatality, it considered the circumstances which led up to the accident to be very rare. The information passed to ODPM was taken into account in our work with relevant trade and industry bodies to develop minimum standards of competence for the Building Regulations Competent Persons Schemes and in our preparations for a planned review of part g of the building regulations to fully consider all aspects of hot water safety.

Neither HSE nor CLG took any further action to disseminate the information from the report of the 2002 accident more widely.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, on the Health and Safety Executive, if she will issue guidance to social landlords on the risks arising from the type of water heater involved in the death of Rhianna Hardie. [178624]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Health and Safety Executive issued a safety alert in July 2007 detailing the causes of the accident and the typical warning signs to watch out for. This alert was sent to a wide range of stakeholders including housing associations, local government and local authority housing departments. We are working with HSE and others to ensure that any gaps there may be in awareness of this particular risk are closed. In particular we intend to formally ask the Housing Corporation to bring the HSE alert and advice to the attention of housing associations and are working with HSE to re-issue the HOUSE advice and alert to all local authorities both in their capacity as an enforcement authority and as a landlord.

Housing: Disabled

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Tamworth Borough Council on improving homes for disabled people in each of the last three years. [193602]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over the last 3 years, Tamworth borough council spent the following amounts on improving homes for disabled people:

2005-06: £203,871.30;

2006-07: £186,872.73; and

2007-08: £125,162.51 has been spent so far this year, with a further £131,987.00 committed, giving a total of £257,149.51.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1140-1W, on housing: finance, for what reasons her Department's capital investment in *(a)* council-owned housing stock and *(b)* home ownership schemes in relation to housing associations was less in 2006-07 than in each of the previous three years. [182177]

Mr. Iain Wright: The overall investment in housing has increased year on year up to and including 2006-07. There are a number of reasons why there was a reduction in the level of capital investment in council owned stock in 2006-07: reduced stock numbers; a separation of monies for private sector renewal from the funding stream that previously combined this funding with that for council housing stock; and the recommendations of regional assemblies on the allocation of available resources for new build affordable housing (including low cost home ownership schemes) and investment in existing stock.

Housing: Local Government Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether all funding from local authorities for redistribution under the Housing Revenue Account programme is ring-fenced for housing projects led by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [192795]

Mr. Iain Wright: Currently, all assumed surpluses that are captured by the housing revenue account subsidy system are redistributed to authorities with assumed deficits and paid into individual authorities' housing revenue accounts. The housing revenue account is ring-fenced and authorities can only use these resources for the upkeep of their own housing stock. In the current year Government are forecast to make a net contribution to the overall subsidy system.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, Official Report, column 583W, and 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 690-91W, on housing: low incomes, what types of home improvement the householder cannot request be excluded from any equity uplift share with the mortgage lender and Homebuyer Agent; [189237]

(2) what types of home improvement require prior permission from the mortgage lender in order to be excluded from the mortgage lender and Homebuy Agent sharing in the equity uplift. [189238]

Mr. Iain Wright: All home improvements such as building an extension or altering the layout of the home require the prior agreement of the HomeBuy Agent and lender.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the results of the consultation on local government reorganisation in Cheshire; and how many and what proportion of responses indicated a broad cross-section of support for two unitary councils. [193213]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to the publication by her Department of National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Update on publication of the final definitions for the national indicator set, which best value performance indicators and other old performance measures which are not included in the national indicator set will continue to be collected as data returns from local authorities by central government after 1st April 2008. [193862]

John Healey: All best value and other performance indicators which are not included in the national indicator set will cease as performance indicators from 1 April 2008. We are working with other Government Departments to identify those data collections which are to be discontinued, in line with the commitment made in the Local Government White Paper to limit data collection to that which is necessary for reasons such as financial management and policy development, and to meet the 30 per cent. target for reduction in data burdens announced on 9 October 2007 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Unitary Councils: Cheshire

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which respondents to the consultation on local government reorganisation in Cheshire expressed support for two unitary councils. [192470]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to my statement to the House on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1050, and the publication, 'Proposals for Future Unitary Structures: Stakeholder Consultation—Summary of Reponses', published by my Department on 19 November 2007.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the quality of childcare and early years education in *(a)* deprived areas and *(b)* affluent areas; and if he will make a statement. [187146]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006-07 Ofsted Schools Inspection[1] Annual Report presents information on the quality of childcare and nursery education settings. Of the 27,236 settings inspected, overall childcare quality was outstanding in 3 per cent. of settings, good in 54 per cent., satisfactory in 39 per cent. and inadequate in 4 per cent. The standard of early education in 6,343 settings was rated as outstanding (5 per cent.), good (55 per cent.), satisfactory (37 per cent.) and inadequate (2 per cent.). The report also found that of 16,512 childminders overall childcare quality was of an outstanding quality for 3 per cent. of providers, 54 per cent. were of good quality, 39 per cent. were of satisfactory quality and 3 per cent. were of inadequate quality.

These findings are supported by this Department's evaluation of the Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (NNI), published in March 2007, which provides information on the quality of childcare and early years education in disadvantaged areas. The study found that 93 per cent. of settings were rated as at least of adequate quality and 70 per cent. were providing provision quality that was of an adequate but just below a good standard of care, 23 per cent. were offering a good to excellent standard of provision. Settings were most successful at providing children with pleasant and appropriate staff-child interactions that were warm and respectful. Although there is no comparable data on settings in more affluent areas, the study found that families from very different backgrounds and with different needs were being offered comparable quality of provision. Nurseries providing for high proportions of disadvantaged families offered comparable quality services to settings serving less disadvantaged families.

[1] For inspection purposes, provision quality in UK childcare and early years settings is explored through professional judgements captured through the recently developed Ofsted Inspection Framework. The framework is used to assess whether settings meet the minimum standards of providing quality provision. The framework measures quality based on the effective delivery of the Every Child Matters Outcomes, for children: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving and making a positive contribution. Settings are rated on a four point grading scale, where 1 = outstanding, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = inadequate.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171434]

Kevin Brennan: The Department spent £2,653 on Christmas cards and £460 on a Christmas tree at the headquarters building. The Department does not fund Christmas parties. Records are not kept centrally for its non-departmental public bodies' spend on Christmas cards or decorations.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182990]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central advertising and publicity budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Spend on advertising for 2007-08 is not yet available. However, advertising spend constitutes approximately 20 per cent. of the total Departmental budget for marketing and communications for the 2007-08 financial year.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what requirements his Department places on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176629]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's contract templates include clauses for use where a contractor is required to process information on individuals in any way, either electronically or on paper, that ensures data protection, confidentiality and prevent the loss of data.

Where a contractor's employees are required to have access to, or knowledge or custody of, Government assets such as documents, IT equipment and the Department's premises, the contractor must meet the Government-wide personnel security standard, which requires employee checks on identity, employment history, nationality and immigration status and the declaration of unspent criminal records.

Contractors are also bound by the requirements of the Data Protection Act and will operate in accordance with their corporate governance, security and audit arrangements.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [185424]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [162320]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is jointly committed with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to the efficiency target set originally for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The DfES target is 2.5 per cent. a year over the spending review 2004 period. This means being able to demonstrate cumulative gains against our baseline of £1.45 billion in 2005-06, £2.9 billion in 2006-07 and £4.35 billion in 2007-08.

Details of the specific initiatives which contribute to our Gershon efficiency target are set out in our Efficiency Technical Note, which is available on the Department's website.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by *(A)* special advisers, *(B)* Ministers and *(C)* communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its predecessor since August 2005. [185535]

Kevin Brennan: No Wikipedia entries have been created by anyone in the Department or its predecessor. One entry has been amended by a Minister. It is not possible to obtain IP address information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Leave

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department are *(a)* on leave, *(b)* suspended, *(c)* on sick leave, *(d)* retained and *(e)* otherwise inactive. [192847]

Kevin Brennan: At the end of February 2008, 91 staff were on sick leave and 162 staff were retained or inactive (i.e. those on maternity leave, special leave without pay or career breaks).

Central records are not kept for staff on leave, or those who have been suspended, and figures could be collected at only disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189070]

Kevin Brennan: The Department employs *(a)* two staff who are under 18 years of age. Both are full-time so this equals *(b)* two full-time equivalents. This is out of a total of 2,871 staff (2,722 full-time equivalents) currently employed in the Department.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [191514]

Kevin Brennan: The information on recruits to the current Department and its predecessors is given as follows:

Recruits over the age of 55 years

	Number
2005	10
2006	15
2007[1]	9
2008[2]	0

[1] DFES and DCSF
[2] To date

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187510]

Kevin Brennan: It is not possible to provide information for a whole year as my Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. However, I am able to tell you that for the six months ending 31 December 2007 the cost of sickness pay to staff within the Department amounted to £1.52 million.

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence effectively and keeping it to a minimum. Effective preventative measures, including maintaining a healthy work environment, are in place, supported by prompt action when people become sick.

Health Insurance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167937]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not offer private health insurance as part of the employment package.

The Department has no agencies.

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182839]

Kevin Brennan: No complaints of bullying were reported in the Department or its agencies in the last 12 months.

The Department has no agencies.

Primary Education: Nutrition

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures are in place to monitor nutritional standards in primary schools. [192332]

Kevin Brennan: As part of their regular inspections of schools Ofsted expect schools to present evidence about their general approach to food and healthy eating and will report any issues which arise out of self-assessment or as a result of their inspection visit.

Our aim is that all schools will have attained Healthy School status, or be working towards it, by 2009. One of the success criteria is healthy eating and, as part of this, schools will need to show adherence to the new standards.

Young People: Suicide

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people under the age of 21 years committed suicide in 2007; and what research has been undertaken by his Department on suicide risk factors and methods of prevention of suicide among young people. [192333]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The number of deaths from suicide and undetermined injury among people aged under 20 in England in the latest available year, 2006, was 128. Data from the Office for National Statistics is provided in five-year age bands, not single years, so information on suicides by those under 21 is not available.

Research conducted by a number of organisations, including the Department, outline many of the risk factors associated with suicide and these helped form the basis of the suicide prevention strategy for England.

The Department has also funded, through the National Institute for Health Research, a programme entitled "Collaborative learning on the web. The role of online communities in public and professional health education: an exploration based on self-harm". This study aims to support collaboration between young people and health professionals in the production of health information to young people who self-harm.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to regulate animal testing; and how many animals *(a)* were used in and *(b)* died during testing in the last (i) 10 years and (ii) 12 months. [191771]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 makes provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes which may have the effect of causing pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. The production, as well as the use, of genetically modified animals is also regulated by the Act. The Act puts into effect, and in some ways exceeds, the requirements of European Union Directive 86/609/EEC and of Council of Europe Convention ETS 123. The Act is administered by the Home Office in England, Scotland and Wales and by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.

The Act has a three-level licensing system: those carrying out scientific procedures must hold personal licences, which ensures that they are qualified and suitable; the programme of work must be authorised in a project licence; and the place at which the work is carried out must hold a certificate of designation. Home Office inspectors appointed under the Act monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of licences and certificates.

Comprehensive statistics on the use of animals under the Act are published annually. Copies are deposited in the House Library. For convenience the numbers of animals used between 1996 and 2006 (the last year for which figures are available) are shown in the table. We do not collect information about the disposal of animals but the majority of animals used in procedures regulated under the 1986 Act are humanely killed on completion of the work in which they are involved in accordance with the requirements of the Act and relevant project licence conditions. Animals taken into brief captivity for the performance of minor regulated procedures are released to the wild provided that the animals will not be at a biological disadvantage as a result of the regulated procedure performed or of its time in captivity and provided that the animals are certified as fit to be released by a veterinary surgeon or a suitably qualified person.

Living animals used in scientific procedures regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

	Total animal usage
1996	2,646,026
1997	2,573,088
1998	2,593,587
1999	2,569,295
2000	2,642,993
2001	2,567,713
2002	2,655,876
2003	2,791,781
2004	2,778,692
2005	2,812,850
2006	2,946,624

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies were project licence holders for the conduct of scientific procedures on living animals in each of the last 10 years. [192615]

Meg Hillier: Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, project licences are granted to named individuals and not to companies. Comprehensive statistics of scientific procedures on living animals in Great Britain regulated by the 1986 Act are published annually and are placed in the House Library. These include details of project licences in force at the end of each year in various categories of designated establishment, one of which is commercial. The following table gives full details from 1996 to 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available).

Licensees reporting procedures by type of establishment (England, Scotland and Wales) 1996-2006

	Public health labs	Universities	Quangos	NHS hospitals	Government Departments	Non-profit making	Commercial	Total
1996	24	2,270	276	58	97	80	444	3,249
1997	32	2,281	286	45	90	95	503	3,332
1998	28	2,354	288	40	90	87	439	3,326
1999	23	2,012	259	39	88	86	424	2,931
2000	23	1,956	248	36	81	86	412	2,842
2001	21	1,908	245	30	79	95	388	2,766
2002	26	1,899	252	36	89	111	404	2,817
2003	23	1,953	273	34	85	96	365	2,829
2004	18	1,766	254	26	102	93	328	2,587
2005	15	1,693	30	85	236	105	313	2,477
2006	26	2,365	294	40	105	88	478	3,396

Crime: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibilities her Department has in relation to tackling youth crime and antisocial behaviour. [167109]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is the lead department responsible for reducing all crime, including youth crime, and tackling anti-social behaviour. We work closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families on parenting interventions, youth crime prevention, and early intervention; with the Crown Prosecution Service on prosecuting offences; and with the Ministry of Justice on the courts and the use of custody and other disposals. To do so, we provide funding, guidance and leadership to frontline services, such as the police and local authorities, in partnership with other agencies.

Specifically, the Home Office has supported crime prevention programmes, including;

Positive Futures - Around 22,000 young people are currently involved in Positive Futures projects nationwide

Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs) a joint DCSF/Home Office initiative which provides a successful mechanism for ensuring structured joint working between schools and police - there are now over 500 SSPs across the country.

Youth Offending Team prevention programmes, which are estimated to have engaged with more than 50,000 children and young people at on the cusp of offending and 11,000 parents since 2006. Programmes include:

114 youth inclusion programmes (YIPs), which engage hard-to-reach young people from deprived neighbourhoods who are identified as most at risk of offending through positive activities

220 youth inclusion and support panels (YISPs), which seek to ensure access to mainstream services;

84 parenting support services.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* removals following a deportation order and *(b)* administrative removals there were from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [178682]

Mr. Byrne: The breakdown has not been available since 2002, but information prior to 2003 has been published in Table 6.2 of the "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006" Command Paper.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 172036 tabled by the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire on 3 December 2007, on the identity card scheme. [181951]

Meg Hillier: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 584W.

National Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 670, on national security, on the establishment of a new unit bringing together police and security intelligence and research, what estimate has been made of the cost of the unit; whether it will replace the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre; and what steps have been taken in the establishment of the unit to date. [185107]

Jacqui Smith: The establishment of a new team within JTAC to help support Government's Prevent strategy will enhance the work of JTAC not replace it. The team is in the process of being established and the costs will be met from the Home Office's counter-terrorism budget set out in the recent CSR.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average for each of the passport issuing offices in the United Kingdom to process a passport to applicants in 2006. [183930]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* Average processing time for straightforward properly completed postal passport applications by issuing office in 2006 is as follows:

Regional office	*Average working days*
London	2.85
Liverpool	4.41
Peterborough	4.24
Newport	3.39
Glasgow	4.71
Belfast	5.30
Durham	3.92

The London regional office were processing small volumes of postal work during January and February in 2006. However, London deal primarily with applications made in person.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were processed in regional passport offices per week *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years. [187571]

Meg Hillier: The table placed in the House Library shows the weekly output of each regional passport office for each week from 2002 until 2007.

Passports: Belfast

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were issued by the Belfast Passport Office in 2007. [192352]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The number of passports issued by the Identity and Passports Service (IPS) Belfast office in calendar year 2007 was 380,455.

Passports: Glasgow

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports the Glasgow Passport Office processed per week in peak periods *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* two years previously. [187576]

Meg Hillier: The following tables show output for Glasgow during the peak periods.

Glasgow, 2002

Week ending	*Number*
17 March	14,628
24 March	11,077
31 March	14,051
7 April	8,267
14 April	13,374
21 April	15,517
28 April	16,049
5 May	13,214
12 May	10,531
19 May	16,310
26 May	13,593
2 June	12,971
9 June	6,962
16 June	16,226
23 June	14,227
30 June	12,030
7 July	14,087

2003

Week ending	*Number*
2 March	16,542
9 March	15,050
16 March	14,447
23 March	12,658
30 March	16,029
6 April	15,532
13 April	14,174
20 April	12,594
27 April	10,527
4 May	12,118
11 May	11,010
18 May	13,499
25 May	16,353
1 June	11,082
8 June	14,179
15 June	14,653
22 June	19,623
29 June	13,753
6 July	12,405
13 July	18,518

2004

Week ending	*Number*
29 February	18,114
7 March	13,700
14 March	12,383
21 March	14,384
28 March	10,902
4 April	12,451
11 April	11,614
18 April	7,490
25 April	15,043
2 May	14,357
9 May	12,458
16 May	13,235
23 May	21,568
30 May	15,167
6 June	13,500
13 June	16,207

2005

Week ending	*Number*
10 April	14,118
17 April	8,431
24 April	11,655
1 May	13,752
8 May	7,027
15 May	16,539
22 May	16,767
29 May	12,329
5 June	8,318
12 June	17,198
19 June	8,502
26 June	14,588
3 July	12,817
10 July	9,760
17 July	14,377

2006

Week ending	*Number*
12 March	12,794
19 March	12,678
26 March	11,850
2 April	11,586
9 April	9,397
16 April	9,227
23 April	7,748
30 April	12,767
7 May	11,486
14 May	12,154
21 May	15,127
28 May	15,397

2007

Week ending	*Number*
11 March	12,084
18 March	10,496
25 March	10,957
1 April	9,902
8 April	5,902
15 April	8,044
22 April	12,735
29 April	11,972
6 May	9,115
13 May	8,490
20 May	11,135
27 May	11,987

2007	
Week ending	*Number*
3 June	9,198
10 June	11,073
17 June	9,758
24 June	10,764

Police: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is external review of the type and quality of information held by the police and released by chief constables under the enhanced disclosures procedure. [190615]

Meg Hillier: Sir Rhys Davies QC is the Independent Monitor of information released from local police records as part of the Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure procedure. Chief constables are required under Part V of the Police Act 1997 to disclose any information held in local police records that they consider relevant to an Enhanced Disclosure application. The Independent Monitor's main role is to scrutinise such information to ensure that a proper balance is struck between the rights of an individual and those of vulnerable groups.

Safegarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people subject to registration if open age sport is included in the Safegarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [185746]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

We have received useful feedback on the issue of under 18 year olds playing in open age sport from stakeholders in the sports sector while developing policy in this area. It is not our intention to make any activity a regulated activity unnecessarily, particularly if that means children could be denied access to a wide range of sporting activity.

As a consequence of feedback from stakeholders we consulted on the proposal that activities relating to the teaching, training and instruction of children aged 16-17 years should not be considered to be regulated activity, where the 16 or 17 year old is part of an activity aimed at mixed age groups which include adults. The consultation closed on 20 February 2008 and we will be analysing the responses including those from the sports sector to feed into the formal Government report. It would be wrong to pre-empt the results of this process.

The Department for Children Schools and Families, the Department of Health and the Home Office will continue to consult widely with stakeholders including sports bodies and will continue working with the Department for Culture Media and Sport to help inform Regulations and prepare for implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1848W, on animals: diseases, what the animal health and welfare budget is for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [192031]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Health and Welfare budget for 2007-08 is £404 million and the indicative figures for 2008-09 are £394 million. Detailed figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not yet available.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1848W, on animals: diseases, what proportion of the £121 million reduction to his Department's animal health and welfare budget will be made up of *(a)* efficiency savings and *(b)* transfers and charges. [192032]

Jonathan Shaw: Based on our current plans, we estimate that around two thirds of the annual saving of £121 million by 2010-11 should be achieved through efficiency savings, with the remaining third through transfers and charges.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to fund research into blue tongue vaccines other than those for the BTV-8 strain. [192489]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA currently has no plans to invest in vaccines for use in bluetongue serotypes other than serotype 8 (BTV-8). This strain arrived in East and South East England in September 2007.

We will keep this under active review in the light of vaccine developments and veterinary risk assessment of the likely spread of other serotypes.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent mild winter on the likely prevalence of blue tongue. [192490]

Jonathan Shaw: Bluetongue disease is spread from animal to animal via the bites of midges.

During the winter, midge activity is at its lowest, and low temperatures mean that virus does not replicate in the midges. Therefore, because of a very low risk of disease transmission, we declared a vector-free period on 20 December 2007. Based on the assessment of meteorological data and historic vector (midge) trapping, this period will end on 15 March. As temperatures increase and midges become more active, we may expect to see the disease re-emerge this year.

Experiences in Northern Europe in 2007 showed that the virus reappeared in June/July. Given our similar climate, we are preparing on the basis of a similar scenario in the UK this year. Cases of bluetongue identified during the winter, and subsequent amendments to the restricted zones mean that we are confident that the disease is currently contained within the protection zone.

Further information about our control and vaccination strategy is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's strategy is for informing livestock owners that blue tongue vaccines will be available if there is a deterioration in the current blue tongue situation. [192491]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK's Bluetongue Emergency Vaccination Delivery Plan, published on 18 February, sets out how mass vaccination can be achieved through a voluntary approach. This is coupled with an industry-led campaign promoting the importance of vaccination.

DEFRA will play an active role in supporting the communications strategy.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was received by his Department from the sale of meat from cattle slaughtered as a result of bovine tuberculosis testing in each of the last three years. [192798]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 March 2008]*: The amount of money received by the Government from the sale of the cattle slaughtered in England, as a result of bovine tuberculosis control measures from 2004-05 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount received (£ million)*
2004-05	3.1
2005-06	4.9
2006-07	1.1

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid by his Department to *(a)* abattoirs and *(b)* others for the slaughter and disposal of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis testing in each of the last three years. [192799]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 March 2008]*: DEFRA does not pay abattoirs directly for the slaughter and disposal of cattle under TB control measures. Abattoirs take a payment from the money received from the sale of slaughtered cattle.

The following table sets out the amount paid to others by DEFRA for the haulage, slaughter and disposal of cattle slaughtered in England under bovine tuberculosis control measures from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Financial year	*Amount paid (£ million)*
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	.7
2006-07	1.1

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on each budgetary heading for *(a)* bovine tuberculosis measures and *(b)* animal health and welfare in each of the last three years; and how much it plans to spend on each heading in each year of the new Comprehensive Spending Review period. [192800]

Jonathan Shaw: Annual expenditure by DEFRA on bovine tuberculosis (bTB) from 2004-05 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table.

			£ million
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cattle testing	36.4	36.7	37.8
Randomised Badger Culling Trial	7.2	6.2	1.6
Compensation	35.0	40.4	24.5
Surveillance activity by the Veterinary Laboratory Agency	4.9	7.5	6.4
Other Research	5.7	6.5	7.8
HQ/Overheads	1.3	1.8	1.7

We are unable to provide an accurate forecast of expenditure on bTB in each year of the new comprehensive spending review period as budgets have not yet been finalised.

The amount spent by DEFRA on animal health and welfare in each of the last three years can be found in the 2007 departmental report. This is available on the DEFRA website.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [1[illegible]021]

Jonathan Shaw: No personal data for which this Department are responsible are stored or processed overseas.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188224]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department, including its agencies, has no contract with US registered service providers or a UK subsidiary of a US registered service provider for information storage, processing or analysis.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of his Department's activities will be discontinued following the recent budget pressures referred to by the Minister for Sustainable Farming, Food and Animal Welfare in evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee on 3 March 2007. [192083]

Jonathan Shaw: In setting a balanced budget for 2008-09 DEFRA has prioritised all its activities. The need to prioritise activities necessitates a review of the extent, timing and way we deliver our services in order to maximise value for money within the available budget. Hence we shall be reviewing the support we provide to business, consumers and the public sector in the drive towards a low carbon and resource efficient economy.

Departmental Public Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192104]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender. DEFRA will engage in this HM Treasury-led work as required.

Departmental Retirement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department retired on grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187500]

Jonathan Shaw: Fewer than five staff in DEFRA retired due to stress-related illness in each of the last three years. The precise numbers cannot be supplied on grounds of confidentiality.

The current sickness absence management policy with supporting procedural documentation is also being redeveloped to ensure that it supports employee attendance at work as effectively as possible. A StressWeb is available for employee information through the health and safety intranet based website. It includes a stress policy and it is planned to update this document during 2008. DEFRA is currently in the process of revising its policies for managing attendance.

In addition, there is a wide range of support available to staff both via the Intranet and through the outsourced Occupational Health and Employee Support Service which provides a range of support services including telephone and face to face counselling.

Departmental Sick Leave

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187873]

Jonathan Shaw: In the year ending on 31 December 2007, 7.7 per cent. of the working days lost by DEFRA staff were recorded as being due to stress.

The current sickness absence management policy with supporting procedural documentation is also being redeveloped to ensure that it supports employee attendance at work as effectively as possible. A StressWeb is available for employee information through the health and safety intranet based website. It includes a stress policy and it is planned to update this document during 2008. DEFRA is currently in the process of revising its policies for managing attendance.

In addition, there is a wide range of support available to staff both via the Intranet and through the outsourced Occupational Health and Employee Support Service which provides a range of support services including telephone and face to face counselling.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average hourly rate his Department and its predecessors paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187915]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 the core Department holds the following average hourly charge rate data:

Hourly rate (£)

	Adecco	*Office Angels*	*Brook Street*	*Kelly Services*
2007	10.23	10.56	n/a	n/a
2006	9.47	[1]10.33	11.72	10.75
2005	9.33	n/a	10.74	8.04

[1] October to December.

The average hourly rate charge varies from firm to firm because it is dependent on the total charge(s) divided by the total numbers of hours worked.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 181609 and *(b)* 181524 on departmental travel, tabled on 21 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Taunton; and what the reason for the time taken to respond is. [191407]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: These questions were answered on 6 and 10 March respectively.

Departmental Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190285]

Jonathan Shaw: Records for the parliamentary sessions 2001-02 and 2002-03 were not maintained in such a way as to enable the Department to extract the information requested without incurring disproportionate costs.

Session	*Total named day parliamentary questions*	*Holding answers issued*	*Substantive answer on the due date*
2003-04	626	524	102
2004-05	269	187	82
2005-06	934	619	315
2006-07	791	406	385

My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their named day questions on the due day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193386]

Jonathan Shaw: Our records are not maintained in such a way as to enable the Department to extract the information requested without incurring disproportionate costs.

However, our records show the following:

Parliamentary questions received by 25 February 2008

	Written	*Named day*
Total PQs	1,618	395
PQs answered on time	1,050	165
1 day late	119	56
2-5 days late	229	124
6-10 days late	129	25
11 days late	91	25

My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their named day questions on the due day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the removal of management plans from the Entry Level Stewardship schemes; how many farmers he estimates have been affected; and what alternative schemes he plans to bring forward to encourage environmentally-friendly farming. [192345]

Jonathan Shaw: Four management plan options—for nutrients, soil, crop protection products and manure—were removed from the list of 62 available options under Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) following discussions with the EU Commission as part of the process of EU approval of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), under which ELS is funded. This was in response to concerns that these options did not require agreement holders to do more than would be required of them under cross compliance or part of good agricultural and environmental practice and would not therefore justify additional payment.

However, ELS agreements entered into before 1 January 2007 will not be affected by the change and these management plans will continue to attract appropriate payments for the remaining life of agreements.

A number of industry stakeholders have since raised concerns, including the National Farmers Union (NFU), Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Agricultural Industries Confederation, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) and Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

Of the 5,400 provisional agreements entered into from 1 January 2007, around 2,600 include management plans options and around 1,800 of these will no longer have sufficient surplus points to meet the points threshold now that management plan options are not available. Natural England, which delivers the scheme, has contacted all agreement holders and is working closely with those affected to help ensure that they are able to remain in ELS. The latest advice from Natural England suggests that most agreement holders want to remain in the scheme and will choose new options to achieve the required threshold.

It is important to bear in mind that even with the removal of management plans, ELS remains largely unchanged and, with over 30,000 farmers already signed up covering 50 per cent. of farmland in England, the scheme should continue to deliver key environmental outcomes. And with 58 options remaining available, farmers wanting to join ELS should still be able to do so.

Nature Conservation: Biodiversity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to replace the Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund; and what guidance he is providing to organisations that were in receipt of financial assistance from the fund on alternative funding streams; [192679]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on *(a)* landscapes important for biodiversity and

(b) employment of the ending of the Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund. [192680]

Joan Ruddock: Natural England will make an announcement about any successor scheme to Countdown 2010 in April. However, Natural England will shortly launch Access to Nature, a £25 million grant scheme jointly funded with the Big Lottery. Many projects previously funded by Countdown 2010 will be eligible for this new scheme and guidance about the grant scheme can be found on Natural England's website. Natural England is also seeking to identify additional funding for priority biodiversity habitats and species.

I expect Natural England to evaluate the likely impact on landscapes rich in biodiversity, which results from the end of the Countdown 2010 grant scheme. This evaluation will help to inform how Natural England determines priorities for its grant-in-aid in 2008-09.

As all existing Countdown 2010 projects were for a two-year period, I do not anticipate that their conclusion will have any effect on permanent employment.

Orders and Regulations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to business of complying with his Department's regulations in each of the last five years. [192033]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with the Better Regulation Executive's guidance, the Department ensures that published regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) and impact assessments (IAs) are accessible via its website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/impact-assessment/index.htm

RIAs/IAs include a cost and benefit analysis and information on individual regulations is therefore available from the DEFRA website. The Department does not currently aggregate that data but is looking to improve both data collation and analysis, as well as post implementation reviews, in the context of introducing an updated policy-cycle framework.

However, it needs to borne in mind that policy costs, in isolation, give a distorted picture of the impact of regulations as they need to be weighed against likely benefits to business, society, the environment, biodiversity, and animal health and welfare, and these will be different in each case.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities conducting pilot studies have to require the use by residents of *(a)* receptacles and *(b)* bags for the collection of household waste that the authority provides and charges for; and if he will make a statement. [192312]

Joan Ruddock: Under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities can serve notices requiring residents to use specified receptacles. Local authorities running waste incentive pilot schemes will be able to use their existing powers to specify the type of bin or bag in which residents must put their waste. The same powers of enforcement for non-compliance for such requirements will also be available to pilot authorities: i.e. an authority could bring a prosecution or, more likely, offer an individual the option of paying a fixed penalty notice. Experience shows that the most effective means of encouraging compliance with any waste collection scheme is good engagement and communications with local residents.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents registered with the Child Support Agency are living abroad; and what proportion of them were making payments to the parent with care in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [185917]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents registered with the Child Support Agency are living abroad; and what proportion of them are making payments to the parent with care in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [185917]

The requested information is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of cases where the non-resident parent is living abroad

	Cases where the non-resident parent lives abroad	*Percentage of cases making a payment*
December 2004	9,800	18
December 2005	7,600	21
December 2006	6,700	24
December 2007	6,200	25

Notes:

1. The figures in the table show the number of cases where the non-resident parent is living abroad. This includes all cases where there is either a nil or positive assessment in place in the quarter to December.
2. The Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (table 25) sets out the number of non-resident parents that are recorded on CS2 as living abroad. These figures include all cases where the Agency is aware that the non-resident parent is living abroad.
3. The percentage of cases making a payment includes those cases where the non-resident parent is making a payment via the Agency or where a maintenance direct agreement is in place in the quarter to December.
4. The figures in the table include cases on the CS2 computer system only. No information is available on CS2 for cases where the non-resident parent was living abroad prior to 2004.
5. No information is available for cases recorded on the CSCS computer system where the non-resident parent lives abroad.
6. The table details the number of cases where the non-resident parent lives abroad. A non-resident parent may have more than one case with the Agency.
7. The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest 100.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of repayment schedules agreed with the Child Support Agency have been over *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* 50. [185878]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency acknowledges requests from the non-resident parent for a change of circumstances review; what the target time is for completion of such a review from the date of receipt; and what the average time taken was for completion of such a review from date of receipt in the latest period for which figures are available. [183899]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the Child Support Agency acknowledges requests from the non-resident parent for a change of circumstances review; what the target time is for completion of such a review from the date of receipt; and what the average time taken was for completion of such a review from date of receipt in the latest period for which figures are available. [183899]

The Agency has recently begun to publish data concerning change of circumstances requests by case in Table 29 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec07.asp.

Change of circumstances requests cover a number of different areas including change of address, change of employer, changes to income, number of people living in the household and whether a parent is in receipt of benefits. Only around 10 per cent of changes of circumstances affect collection schedules. As a change of circumstance can potentially affect more than one case, and a case can have multiple changes of circumstances outstanding, the Agency records the number of requests and not cases.

The Agency does not record whether the request was generated by the non-resident parent or the parent with care.

On average the Agency receives almost 190,000 requests per month and so is unable to acknowledge receipt of a change of circumstance request.

The Agency does not currently have a published target for the time taken to clear a change of circumstance. Robust information concerning the average time taken to clear a change of circumstance is not available. However, since March 2003, 97 per cent. of the changes of circumstances requests received by the Agency have been cleared.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median child maintenance liability as assessed by the Child Support Agency was in each of the last 13 years. [177204]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median child maintenance liability as assessed by the Child Support Agency was in each of the last 13 years. [177204]

The attached table shows the median positive weekly maintenance liability for the period November 1995 to December 2007. Data prior to this is not available. The overall Agency median weekly liability has decreased since 2003 as a result of the increased proportion of new scheme cases, which have lower maintenance liabilities, relative to the old scheme. There has also been an increase in the proportion of cases assessed as having no maintenance liability across both schemes. Despite the decrease in median weekly liability, the Agency collected or arranged nearly £975 million in maintenance in the twelve months to December 2007 meaning that more children in more cases now benefit from maintenance than ever before.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Median positive weekly maintenance liability

	Median positive weekly liability (£)			*Proportion of nil assessed cases (percentage)*		
Month	*Old scheme*	*New scheme*	*Overall agency*	*Old scheme*	*New scheme*	*Overall agency*
November 1995	47.00	n/a	47.00	23	n/a	23
November 1996	44.00	n/a	44.00	32	n/a	32
November 1997	44.00	n/a	44.00	39	n/a	39
November 1998	43.00	n/a	43.00	44	n/a	44
November 1999	42.00	n/a	42.00	45	n/a	45
November 2000	41.00	n/a	41.00	47	n/a	47
November 2001	41.00	n/a	41.00	47	n/a	47
November 2002	41.00	n/a	41.00	48	n/a	48
December 2003	42.00	27.00	40.00	50	17	48
December 2004	42.00	26.00	37.00	51	14	45
December 2005	41.00	24.00	33.00	52	16	43
December 2006	[illegible]1.00	23.00	31.00	55	18	41
December 2007	41.00	25.00	30.00	58	19	40

Notes:

1. Includes all cases with a positive assessment as at end of December each year from 2003 and at end of November each year prior to this.
2. Median weekly liability is at month end for each relevant month.
3. Weekly liability rounded to the nearest £.
4. The latest available data is at December 2007. Data prior to November 1995 is not available.

Child Support Agency: Compensation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in compensation for Child Support Agency maladministration in each of the last 10 years; and how many cases were involved in each year. [185592]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was paid in compensation for Child Support Agency maladministration in each of the last 10 years; and how many cases were involved in each year. [185592]

Financial redress is made to clients in cases where maladministration has occurred. The table below provides information on the total consolatory payments made to clients in each of the last ten years. This information has been published in the Child Support Agency Annual Report & Accounts. The number of cases for 1997/98 to 1999/2000 were not separately disclosed in the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts.

Financial year	*Compensation to clients (including interest payments) (£ million)*	*Number of cases*
1997-98	1.101	—
1998-99	4.351	—
1999-2000	3.075	—
2000-01	3.053	8,908
2001-02	2.590	10,006
2002-03	2.478	10,090
2003-04	2.331	6,863
2004-05	3.009	9,118
2005-06	4.138	13,991
2006-07	3.709	15,420

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants owed compensation by the Child Support Agency (CSA) are awaiting payment of compensation from each of the last five years; and how much the CSA owes in such compensation for each of those years. [192694]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 7 March 2008]*: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many claimants owed compensation by the Child Support Agency (CSA) are awaiting payment of compensation from each of the last five years; and how much the CSA owes in such compensation for each of those years. [192694]

The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Awards may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused.

The Agency will consider whether such payments are appropriate either by request or in the course of resolving a complaint. As such, there is only a short delay between the decision to make a payment and any such payment being made.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Complaints

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many telephone complaints have been received by the Child Support Agency from people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997; [184837]

(2) how many written complaints have been received by the Child Support Agency from people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [184838]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many telephone complaints have been received by the Child Support Agency by people in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997 [184837], and;

How many written complaints have been received by the Child Support Agency by people in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [184838]

Information on the number of complaints received is not collated at parliamentary constituency, local authority or regional level. Information on the total number of written and telephone complaints received is set out in the attached tables. Written complaints include complaints received by letter, fax or email.

It should be noted that it is difficult to use this information to make meaningful comparisons over time due to changes in the way that information has been recorded. In particular, whilst the volume of complaints undoubtedly rose between 2002-03 and 2003-04, this is likely to have been due in part to more rigorous recording of complaints received at the time, and the introduction by the Agency of a three tier complaints process during 2003-04.

Since April 2006, as a result of the improvements to client service made under the Operational Improvement Plan the number of complaints received has fallen. In addition the Agency revised and simplified the complaints process from April 2007, removing a tier from the resolution process and introducing specialist case workers responsible for resolving all aspects of our clients' complaints.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency complaints—number of complaints received in the Agency 1997 to 2007

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Stage 1 complaints received (Written)[7]	27,875	28,073	21,015	19,634	15,493	15,182	24,809	29,213	27,344	21,719
Stage 1 Complaints received (telephone)[7]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	7,458	10,570	10,660	7,560
Chief Executive Complaints	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,096	4,555	7,096	[4]—	[5]—	5,887	3,769
Treat Official Complaints[6]	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	2,609	2,869	1,344	1,521	1,108	1,278	998
MP Complaints	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,175	4,818	4,537	5,317	8,871	9,729	9,151

[1] Whilst the Agency did receive telephone complaints prior to 2002-03, their volumes were not recorded.

[2] Although 671 stage 1 telephone complaints were recorded between December 2002 and March 2003, their volumes were not recorded throughout the whole year, thus preventing meaningful comparison with later years.

[3] Whilst the Agency did receive complaints directly to the chief executive, treat official complaints, and MP complaints to business units prior to 2000-01, their volumes were not recorded.

[4] During 2003-04 complaints sent directly to the chief executive were not recorded separately from those complaints that were escalated to him as part of the 3-stage process. Therefore, although 7,183 complaints in total were received during 2003-04, it is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the chief executive directly (as opposed to those escalated via the complaints process), thus preventing meaningful comparison with data for earlier years.

[5] In April and May of 2004, the chief executive received a total of 1,447 complaints however, is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the chief executive directly, as opposed to those escalated to stage 3 of the complaints process). From June 2004-March 2005, after which time such complaints were recorded separately, the chief executive received 4,393 direct complaints and 2,594 complaints escalated upwards from stage 2. Again, these recording issues prevent meaningful comparison of this category with earlier years.

[6] Treat official letters are those received by a Minister from a member of the public, and referred for initial consideration to an official of the Agency.

[7] Changes to how the Agency recorded complaints over the years means that comparisons of the numbers of complaints received are not easily made. The Agency initially operated a two tier complaints process to deal with escalated complaints. A third tier was introduced in 2003, - see notes [4] and [5]. In the year ending March 2006, 7167 stage 1 complaints required escalation to resolve and 4,673 in year ending March 2007.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made about the Child Support Agency *(a)* by people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* nationally in the last two years. [191956]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints have been made about the Child Support Agency (a) by people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) nationally in the last two years. [191956]

Information on the number of complaints received is not collated at parliamentary constituency, local authority or regional level. Information on the number of complaints received nationally by the Agency is set out in the attached tables.

Since April 2006, as a result of the improvements to client service made under the Operational Improvement Plan the number of complaints received has fallen. In addition the Agency revised and simplified the complaints process from April 2007, removing a tier from the resolution process and introducing specialist case workers responsible for resolving all aspects of our clients' complaints.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency—number of complaints received by the Agency 2005 to 2007

	2005-06	*2006-07*
Stage 1 complaints received[1]	38,004	29,279
Chief Executive Complaints	5,887	3,769
Treat Official Complaints[2]	1,278	998
MP Complaints	9,729	9,151

[1] The agency operated a three tier complaints process throughout 2005-06 and 2006-07. In the year ending March 2006, 7,167 stage 1 complaints required escalation to resolve and 4,673 in year ending March 2007.

[2] Treat official letters are those received by a Minister from a member of the public, and referred for initial consideration to an official of the agency.

Note:

Under the Operational Improvement Plan, the agency introduced a new complaints resolution process from April 2007. This simplified process has just two stages; the number of complains received for 2007-08 will be published in the agency's annual report and accounts.

Child Support Agency: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the running costs of the Child Support Agency were in each of the last 10 years. [185127]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the running costs of the Child Support Agency were in each of the last 10 years. [185127]

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency's running costs years 1997-98 to 2006-07

Financial year	*£ million*
1997-98	225.9
1998-99	231.2
1999-2000	266.7
2000-01	298.3
2001-02	361.9
2002-03	428.9
2003-04	451.6
2004-05	425.6
2005-06	465.2
2006-07	520.3

Notes:

1. All information from the 2005-06 and earlier years is sourced from the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts.
2. In 2005-06 following National Audit Office advice the agency's accounting, boundaries were changed resulting in the inclusion of Child Support Reform Programme costs in the Agency's Annual Accounts. The 2005-06 accounts and the 2004-05 comparatives were changed accordingly. In line with this policy the table includes Child Support Reform costs from 1999-2000 onwards.
3. 2005-06 and 2006-07 includes investment for the Operational Improvement Plan.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the number of non-resident parents from whom the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance arrears by *(a)* age of their debt and *(b)* the amounts owed within each age of debt band. [181253]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter of the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of Sate promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will break down the number of non-resident parents from whom the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance arrears by (a) age of their debt and (b) the amounts owed within each of debt age band.

The Agency reports the amount of outstanding debt in its Annual Report and Accounts, the latest version of which is held in the House of Commons library. The information requested is supplementary to that reported and therefore the additional analysis provided in the attached table does not include the provisions applied as a result of the annual debt analysis exercise within the Agency's accounts.

The original Child Support Computer System (CSCS) does not record the age of outstanding arrears. This means that the age of any debt accrued on that system including debt on cases subsequently migrated to the new computer system (CS2) can not be reported. The tables provided therefore are restricted to a breakdown of debt accrued on CS2, and summary totals for debt held on CSCS and for debt accrued on CSCS which has since been migrated from CSCS to CS2.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of non resident parents with outstanding debt accrued on CS2, and amount of debt outstanding by age band: November 2007

Age of debt	*Amount of debt outstanding (£ millions)*	*Number of non resident parents*
0-3 Months	93	[1]411,900
3-6 Months	75	[1]306,400
6-9 Months	69	[1]282,100
9-12 Months	66	[1]260,300
12-18 Months	123	[1]271,100
18-24 Months	118	[1]239,200
24-36 months	202	[1]222,800
36-48 Months	158	[1]142,000
48 Months+	134	[1]72,800
Total	1,038	—

[1] Each non-resident parent may be included in several lines.

Number of non resident parents with outstanding debt migrated from CSCS to CS2 and amount of debt outstanding: November 2007

Amount of debt outstanding (£ millions)	622
Number of non resident parents	55,900

Number of non resident parents with outstanding debt on CSCS and amount of debt outstanding: November 2007

Amount of debt outstanding (£ millions)	2,125
Number of non resident parents	349,200

Notes:

1. A non resident parent has been recorded within each time band in which they have debt outstanding in e.g. if they have debt that is less than three months old, debt that is 3-6 months old, and debt that is 6-9 months old they will be counted in all three age bands. Therefore the number of NRPs given in the answer cannot be totalled to show the number of NRPs with outstanding debt.
2. If a NRP also has debt which has migrated from CSCS to CS2, they will be counted again in this category.
3. The number of NRPs has been rounded to the nearest hundred; the amount of outstanding debt has been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
4. The Agency reports the amount of outstanding debt in its Annual Report and Accounts. The information set out in these tables is supplementary to that reported and therefore does not include the provisions applied as a result of the annual debt analysis exercise within the Agency's accounts.
5. The Agency conducts an annual debt analysis exercise to estimate the collectability of the amounts outstanding at the end of each year. The Agency estimates that of the £3.7 billion total debt outstanding at March 2007, £1.5 billion is classed as collectable.

Departmental Computer Software

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1012W, on departmental computer software, the source code of which software *(a)* is and *(b)* is not held in escrow. [192647]

Mr. Timms: The Department has 212 applications contracted for maintenance and support. Of these, source code for applications that are bespoke to DWP and considered mission critical, i.e. considered absolutely essential for the Department's business, are held in escrow. These are list *(a)*. Source code for applications that are not bespoke or considered mission critical are not currently held in escrow. These are list *(b)*.

The information in lists *(a)* and *(b)* has been placed in the Library (Annex 1).

Homelessness: Departmental Coordination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what policy co-ordination takes place between his Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure that the housing benefit system supports the Government's objectives on homelessness prevention. [190310]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with Communities and Local Government on a wide range of issues, including the impact of housing benefit (HB) policy on homelessness.

HB enables tenants to pay their rent when they are not working or are living on a low income. This helps to avoid households being evicted from their accommodation as a result of rent arrears and subsequently becoming homeless.

In November last year, the two departments signed a groundbreaking cross-departmental agreement to work together in partnership. The two departments agreed to focus on working together on a number of shared priority outcomes—to ensure full employment and reduced welfare dependency; make Britain a more equal society, promoting equality (including employment equality); reduce levels of poverty and social exclusion, particularly child poverty and poverty among older people; build strong, empowered local communities; tackle worklessness amongst social sector tenants and homeless people, and promote greater independence and well being in later life.

Prevention of homelessness has a key part to play in the achievement of these outcomes.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the likely effect of restricting the back-dating of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* pension credit on (i) homelessness, (ii) eviction levels and (iii) pensioner poverty. [190306]

Mr. Plaskitt: Before any changes to pension credit, housing and council tax benefit are presented to Parliament we will complete a full equality impact assessment as we required to do by law in respect of disability, race and gender. This assessment will consider the likely impact on various client groups.

The results will be published and should be available in spring 2008. We will carefully consider the outcome of the assessment and determine what further action, if any, might be appropriate.

Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of UK households living below (i) 60 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent. and (iii) 40 per cent. of the median household income are eligible for, but not in receipt of, child maintenance payments; [185910]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children who are living in households below (i) 60 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent. and (iii) 40 per cent. of the median household income which are eligible for, but not in receipt of, child maintenance payments; [185911]

(3) how many households *(a)* where child maintenance is due but has not been paid and *(b)* where child maintenance arrears are owed, have incomes below (i) 60 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent. and (iii) 40 per cent. of the median household income. [185912]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Family Resources Survey is used to identify households below the different poverty thresholds. However, it is not possible to identify those households eligible for child maintenance payments from the Family Resources Survey. Only those households where child maintenance is paid can be identified, and consequently the information requested is not available.

Income Support: Polygamy

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal departmental review on polygamy and income support. [191004]

Mr. Plaskitt: The internal review took the form of a number of submissions to Ministers. Advice to Ministers on the development and formulation of Government policy is not made public.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to collect statistics on the number of *(a)* three person and *(b)* four person polygamous unions where the members are in receipt of income support. [191005]

Mr. Plaskitt: No; the cost of collecting and analyzing such statistics would far outweigh their usefulness. Collecting information would require significant changes to the information technology system, and the way our staff record information.

Additionally, as current immigration rules make it very unlikely that new polygamous households could be formed in the UK, and have done so since 1988, we know that the number of such households must be decreasing over time.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what factors account for the recent changes in the number of jobseeker's allowance sanctions or disallowances; [192922]

(2) what guidance was issued to Jobcentre Plus in 2006-07 on the application of sanctions or disallowances; and what effect this has had on numbers of such sanctions or disallowances. [192923]

Mr. Plaskitt: In his Budget report of 2006 the Chancellor announced a strengthening and refocusing of jobsearch reviews to make sure jobseeker's allowance is paid only to people who are able to demonstrate they have undertaken their responsibilities to look for work.

Following that announcement, guidance was issued to Jobcentre Plus staff, stressing the importance of ensuring all contacts with people claiming jobseeker's allowance include a discussion about what they have been doing to find work. Where this raises a doubt about the adequacy of their jobsearch, a Jobcentre Plus decision maker is obliged to consider whether jobseeker's allowance is payable.

Following the issue of this guidance there has been an increase in associated sanctions and disallowances.

Pension Education Fund: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the Pension Education Fund since the initial 26 contracts were awarded; what the duration of each of these contracts was; how much he estimates his Department will allocate to the Fund in each of the next 10 years; and how much was spent on the Fund in each year since its inception. [189831]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total spend on the Pensions Education Fund to 31 January 2008 is £4.5 million.

The duration of each of the contracts is shown in the following table:

Organisation	*Contract Period*
Age Concern Birmingham	January 2006 to December 2007
Age Concern Camden	January 2006 to March 2008
Age Concern Ealing	January 2006 to March 2008
Age Concern England	January 2006 to March 2008
British Chambers of Commerce	January 2006 to March 2008
Campaign for Learning	January 2006 to March 2008
Community—the Union for Life	January 2006 to March 2008
CVS Northampton and County	January 2006 to March 2008
GFTU	January 2006 to March 2008
Golden Gates Housing	January 2006 to March 2008
Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council	January 2006 to March 2008
Life Academy	January 2006 to March 2008
NAPF	January 2006 to March 2008
NIACE	January 2006 to March 2008
North Liverpool CAB	January 2006 to March 2008
Pakistan Pendle Welfare Association	January 2006 to March 2008
PRIME	January 2006 to March 2008
QED UK	January 2006 to March 2008
RNIB	January 2006 to March 2008
Royal Bath and West of England	January 2006 to March 2008
SAFE	January 2006 to March 2008
Sahara Communities Abroad	January 2006 to March 2008
Scottish Transport Credit Union	January 2006 to March 2008
TUC	January 2006 to March 2008
USDAW	January 2006 to March 2008
WEETU	January 2006 to March 2008

The Fund was established as an exploratory time bound initiative to develop and test innovative approaches to ensuring individuals, particularly those who are at risk of under saving, have impartial and accurate information on pensions and retirement planning to make an informed choice about the retirement income they want and how they can achieve it. The Fund has been independently evaluated and a report will be published in spring of this year. The lessons learnt and evaluation findings will form part of the evidence base underpinning the development of the information strategy for pensions reform and the introduction of automatic enrolment and personal accounts from 2012.

The spending in each financial year since the start of the Fund in January 2006 is shown in the following table:

	Spend (£ million)
2005-06	1.2
2006-07	1.6
2007-08	[1]2.0

[1] Estimated end of year outturn.

Pensions

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons becoming entitled to state retirement pensions opted to defer their pension payments during the latest period for which figures are available; how many of them opted for *(a)* an increased weekly pension and *(b)* a lump sum; how many lump sum payments were delayed for over two weeks; and whether interest is payable in such cases. [187692]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Such information as is available is set out as follows.

In the 12 months to March 2007, there were a total of 50,800 people who successfully claimed either a lump sum or extra pension due in respect of a deferred state pension. This figure can be broken down further: 42,300 opted for an increased weekly pension, 4,300 opted for a lump sum payment only, and 4,100 opted to combine both increments and a lump sum.

The Pension Service has a policy to make payments as quickly as possible and does not have details of any payments subject to delays of more than two weeks. However, it is our policy that compensation in the form of interest is considered for any period of unnecessary or unreasonable delay beyond that for normal processing of the claim.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extract of PSCS , therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall case load from the WPLS.

2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, totals may not sum due to rounding

3. Includes overseas cases.

4. Figures include inherited increments and lump sums.

5. The option to take a lump sum was introduced in April 2006 but only for those deferring for a minimum of 12 months.

Poverty: Children

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what further steps his Department plans to take to tackle child poverty; and if he will make a statement. [192390]

Mr. Timms: The first Departmental Strategic Objective in our Three Year Business Plan, published on 28 February 2008, and available in the Library, is to reduce the number of children living in poverty. The focus will be on children living in workless households and children benefiting from child maintenance, particularly those living in low income households.

The Government are supporting families to escape poverty by increasing employment and raising incomes for those who can work; improving parents' access to training in and out of work, and helping lone parents with older children prepare for and actively seek work. The rising trend of child poverty has already been halted; there are 600,000 fewer children living in relative poverty than in 1998-99. A further 300,000 children will be lifted out of poverty as a result of last year's Budget and comprehensive spending review.

In December 2007, we published 'Ready for Work: full employment in our generation', which sets out the next phase of welfare reform. Lone parents who can work will be required to actively seek work, helped by a flexible system of pre-work and in-work support. This will commence for lone parents whose youngest child is 12 or over from October 2008, 10 or over from 2009, and seven or over from 2010. The Government also published the Children's Plan in December 2007 which sets out policies and measures to improve children's life chances and help to alleviate child poverty.

As a result of changes to the personal tax and benefit system since 1997, by April 2009, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £4,000 a year better off in real terms.

The child element of Child Tax Credit will rise by £25 a year above earnings indexation in April 2008, in addition to the Budget 2007 commitment to increase the child element by £150, and it will rise by a further £25 above indexation in April 2010. The child maintenance disregard in the main income-related benefits will be doubled from £10 to £20 by the end of 2008, and doubled again from £20 to £40 in April 2010.

Compared to 2007-08, by 2010-11 the Government will be investing an additional £2 billion a year in public services to alleviate child poverty and break cycles of deprivation, including spending on child care, schooling in deprived areas, educational attainment, health inequalities, emotional well being, disabled children and school transport.

Social Security Benefits: Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what barriers to work for benefit claimants his Department has identified; and how his Department defines barriers to work. [190308]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not have an official definition of a barrier to work. In operational terms, barriers are often considered to be those factors which research shows are highly correlated with long durations on benefit.

Those with the biggest barriers to work include:

older workers,
lone parents,
people with disabilities, and
long-term jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Other groups facing significant barriers include:

refugees,
ex-offenders,
recovering drug users,
people with learning difficulties,
people of no fixed abode,
people on probation,
people leaving care, and
people in contact with secondary mental health services.

Former members of HM forces also often face considerable barriers to work. In many cases individuals will have more than one of these barriers influencing their ability to gain employment.

In addition, a key barrier to work is that many benefit claimants are not actually looking for work. An important part of the Government's Welfare Reform policy is to incentivise and encourage claimants to actively return to the labour market.

The December 2007 report "Ready for work, full employment in our generation" and the January 2008 report "Ready to work, skilled for work: unlocking Britain's talent" set out our plans to address many of these barriers. Having previously focused on specific groups with lower employment rates, and having been largely successful in raising them, the Government are now increasingly moving to an individualised, flexible approach to ensure as many people as possible have the support they need to get into, and stay, in work.

Social Security Benefits: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families received state benefits in excess of £15,000 in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in 2007. [181688]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions into what categories his Department classifies types of benefit fraud. [185919]

Mr. Plaskitt: The categories of benefit fraud used by DWP are listed in 'Fraud and Error in the Benefits System October 2005 to September 2006'. Copies are available in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the total amount spent by his Department was on fraud prevention in each year for which figures are available; [189300]

(2) what his Department's budget for fraud prevention is in each financial year in the 2007 spending review period. [189301]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

The overall aim of the Department's anti-fraud strategy is to have a benefit system, which is secure from first claim to final payment. The implementation of this strategy means that an anti-fraud focus is integral to the work of all staff in the Department, as is dealing with the wider agenda of error and incorrectness in benefit payments. It is therefore not possible to account for the cost of anti-fraud work separately.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department allocated to campaigns to counter benefit fraud in each year for which figures are available. [192809]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The campaigns run by the Department to counter benefit fraud are designed to positively reinforce honest behaviour, to create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability. The following table details spend on these campaigns in each of the last six complete financial years:

	Campaign spend (£000)
2001-02	8,833
2002-03	769
2003-04	9,362
2004-05	6,590
2005-06	7,459
2006-07	6,568

Notes:

1.Figures given are for actual spend on the Targeting Fraud (2001 to 2002), Targeting Benefit Fraud (2003 to 2006) and Targeting Benefit Thieves (2006 to 2007) campaigns.

2.All figures are exclusive of VAT.

3.The figures in these tables refer to media spend, design, PR, production, research and any other associated costs.

Social Security Benefits: Unemployed

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average amount paid in benefits to a workless household in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [181637]

Mr. Plaskitt: The average (mean) weekly amount paid in benefits to a workless household, with at least one adult of working age, in the UK for 2005-06 was £167. The average (mean) weekly gross income for a working household was £803.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, United Kingdom 2005-06

Social Security: Data Protection

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether statements containing personal data, including national insurance numbers, bank account details and the names of relatives living at home are sent to benefit claimants by Jobcentre Plus via non-registered post. [188229]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the right hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 12 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether statements containing personal data are sent to benefit claimants by Jobcentre Plus via non-registered post. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus takes security of its customers very seriously. That is why, from 31 March 2008, we will send the majority of our Customer Statements electronically to the customers' nearest Jobcentre. They will then be able to check the accuracy of the information in the Jobcentre during their New Jobseeker Interview or work focused interview.

These Customer Statements are provided by Jobcentre Plus at the new claim stage, and include national insurance numbers, bank account details and the names of relatives living at home. Customers are required to check the information collected via the telephone to support their claim to benefit. These statements are usually sent by first class post.

We will only continue to send the customer statement by post where the customer's first interview is deferred—for instance those claiming Incapacity Benefit attend a work focused interview 8 weeks after their claim—so that it can be verified without delaying the payment of benefit.

Jobcentre Plus sends a number of other letters through the post also containing personal information, and over the next 12 months we are changing our computer systems to reduce the amount of personal information contained in these letters.

For addresses known to be insecure and for those customers who do not have an address, Jobcentre Plus can arrange for these letters to be collected from the local Jobcentre.

Training: Disabled

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department has provided to people with disabilities to assist them with learning to use computers in each year since 2001. [185039]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of emissions of carbon dioxide resulting from stacking over London and the South East of aircraft destined for Heathrow Airport in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the likely amount if the proposals in the recent consultation document on possible expansion of *(a)* Heathrow Airport and *(b)* Stansted Airport are implemented. [192366]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* Estimates of annual emissions of carbon dioxide attributable to stack-holding over London are not held centrally. No additional estimates were undertaken for the consultation on Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the chief executive of NATS in September 2007 to encourage NATS to explore ways in which the performance of the air traffic control system can contribute to reducing aviation emissions.

NATS is currently consulting on the Terminal Control North airspace change proposal. This area of airspace is one of the most complex in the world, with routes in and out of major airports including Heathrow, Stansted, Luton and London City. The proposed changes are designed to reduce delay while maintaining safety and improving environmental performance. The proposal is not associated with, and does not assume, future development of Heathrow, Stansted or any other airport in the region. This consultation is a matter for NATS, and I suggest the hon. Member directs any inquiries to the chief executive.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to minimise aircraft stacking over London; and what annual emissions of carbon dioxide she estimates arises from this practice. [188504]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 February 2008]*: The operation of air traffic control stacking procedures, when demand dictates or when services are affected by weather or other factors, is a matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider.

We look to NATS to operate air traffic control efficiently, including minimising stacking as far as possible, consistent with their overall objectives.

Estimates of annual emissions of carbon dioxide attributable to stack-holding over London are not held centrally.

Blue Badge Scheme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will instruct authorities responsible for parking enforcement to *(a)* desist from issuing penalty notices to users who place a valid, old-style badge incorrectly and *(b)* refund any penalties incurred by badge holders where they can prove their badge was valid but incorrectly displayed, following the modification in October 2007 of the Blue Badge to include a new message instructing users which way up to display the badge. [192738]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Blue Badges must be displayed correctly in order to help parking enforcement officers to identify abuse. All badges issued after 15 October 2007 contain additional wording to help users display the correct badge.

All badges issued before this time still contain written guidance on the correct method of display. In light of this fact, and the wide availability of the free public advice leaflet "The Blue Badge Scheme: Rights and Responsibilities in England" there are no plans to instruct local authorities to desist from issuing penalty notices, or to refund any penalties already issued, to users who display or have displayed badges incorrectly.

Bus Lanes: Motorcycles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to amend her Department's guidance to local authorities to encourage them to permit motorcycles to use bus lanes. [192614]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with actions set out in the Government's Motorcycling Strategy, the Department has already amended guidance to local authorities on the use of bus lanes by motorcycles.

In February 2007 the Department for Transport published Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/07: The Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles. This makes clear to local highway authorities that it is for them to decide whether or not to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes and encourages them to make an objective assessment of the issue.

The new guidance revises previous advice in Local Transport Note 1/97: Keeping Buses Moving, which recommended that motorcycles should not normally be permitted to use bus lanes.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the withdrawal of concessionary bus fares for people with mental health problems as a result of the introduction of the national concessionary bus travel scheme in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* other areas; and if she will make a statement. [189737]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A number of representations about changes to local, discretionary concessionary bus travel schemes have been directed to my Department. This includes representations about Derbyshire's decision to continue to fund only elements of their local discretionary travel scheme.

The Transport Act 2000 sets out the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus travel, covering any person who: is blind or partially sighted; is profoundly or severely deaf; is without speech; has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to walk; does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms; has a learning disability that is a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning; or would, if he or she applied for a grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his or her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions over and above this statutory minimum at their own expense, these including offering concessionary travel to other categories of people such as those with mental health problems.

Central Government are responsible for the England-wide statutory minimum concession which, from 1 April, is being improved to allow eligible people free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England. We are providing £212 million to local authorities to cover the additional cost of this, and are confident that in total there is sufficient funding to cover the whole cost of this concession.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has held discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for the Economy and Transport, on the extension of free cross-border bus travel for pensioners between England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [193011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have not held discussions with the Minister for the Economy and Transport in Wales about further extensions to concessionary travel. The Government's current focus remains on ensuring the successful introduction of the new England-wide concession on 1 April.

The complexity and cost associated with mutual recognition is likely to be considerable. There are issues around how operators will be properly reimbursed (given the differing arrangements in place), by whom, and whether the terms of the different concessions would have to be harmonised (which would be very expensive). These issues will be much easier to address once full smart ticketing is in place on all buses.

In the interim, local authorities in border areas retain the flexibility to fund cross-border travel for their own residents at their own discretion.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on improving rural bus services. [193594]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have received a number of representations from Members of Parliament, relevant organisations and members of the public on this matter.

Meeting the transport needs of rural communities is a key component of our policies on local bus services and the further development of community transport provision.

Cabotage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the level of cabotage activity of *(a)* British hauliers in other EU member states, with particular reference to Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy and *(b)* EU hauliers in the UK, with particular reference to those from Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy; and if she will make a statement. [192916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Using data made available by Eurostat, the most recent estimates (for 2006) for cabotage activity are set out in the following tables.

Table (a): Cabotage by UK registered vehicles in EU member states

Countries in which cabotage took place	*Tonne kms (billion)*
Germany, Netherlands, France and Italy	0.05
Other EU member states	0.20
All EU member states	0.24

Table (b): Cabotage within the UK by country of vehicle registration

Country of vehicle registration	*Tonne kms (billion)*
Germany	0.2
Netherlands	0.6
France	0.2
Italy[1]	0.0
Other EU member states	0.8
Total EU cabotage[1]	1.8

[1] 2005 data for Italy has been used since 2006 is not yet available

Departmental Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* others entitled to use cars supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency used cars supplied by (i) Kelly Executive and (ii) Little's Chauffeur Drive at her Department's expense in 2007; [191823]

(2) what protocols determine the *(a)* eligibility and *(b)* use by (i) Ministers, (ii) former Ministers and (iii) officials in her Department of cars supplied by (A) Kelly Executive and (B) Little's Chauffeur Drive; and how much was spent by her Department on services from each such company in 2007; [191826]

(3) what the terms and conditions of her Department's contract with Kelly Executive are; and if she will make a statement. [191827]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 March 2008]*: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) makes use of outside car and driver contractors to cover for peak periods, out of normal working hours work or where all its own resources are already utilised. GCDA provides these resources to any minister or official when it is operationally required to do so as set out in its framework document, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

These contracts are with a number of car and driver companies and were set up in 2003 following a public sector procurement exercise conducted under European Union procurement procedures. The contracts were let using the Cabinet Office's standard contract. GCDA became part of the Department for Transport in November 2005 and these contracts were migrated to the DfT at that time.

Since April 2007 GCDA has purchased services worth £170,600 from Kelly Executive and £19,600 from Little's Chauffeur Drive. Both figures exclude VAT. All these fees were recharged to the appropriate Department.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 months. [187955]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Generally, the Department for Transport (DfT) operates a no alcohol policy. In exceptional cases, where the Department is holding a special event or staff are attending a venue away from their normal office and working long hours necessitating an evening meal, some limited provision of alcoholic drinks at public expense may be permitted at the discretion of a senior civil servant. Spend incurred in such situations is not centrally recorded and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's various accounting systems do not in all cases show expenditure on entertaining. Where this is recorded, combined spend at DfT(central) and the Vehicle Certification Agency was 18,638 in the last 12 months. This includes costs incurred during reciprocal events, the Royal opening of a new wing at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (Farnborough) and the hosting of an international conference on rail. The

Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency both recorded zero expenditure.

Entertainment costs are not recorded as a specific cost category within the accounting systems in use at the Driving Standards Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Highways Agency and at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Such costs are charged to generic codes and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to her Department's budget. [192107]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No specific consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to the budget of the Department for Transport, but HM Treasury will be conducting further work during 2008 that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate public expenditure statistics by gender.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on translation services by her Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* to date in 2007-08. [187983]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The figures requested are in the following table. Those for DfT(c) include interpretation as well as translation. Separate translation information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£000

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT(c)	18.1	22.6	22.4	34.2	23.9
DVLA	84.2	92.7	78.8	134.5	111.7
VOSA	19.00	55.00	37.00	56.00	56.00
VCA	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.1	0.8
MCA	8.5	4.7	7.7	20.1	12.2
DSA	[1]—	[1]—	4.9	0.1	3.2
HA	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Data not available

[2] Data not available except at disproportionate cost

Information on translations provided by the Department's non-departmental public bodies is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what checks are carried out on organisations which have made written requests to obtain information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [187701]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A review on the release of information from DVLA's vehicle register was carried out in 2006 by the then Minister for Transport. Following that review, DVLA remained of the view that the release of vehicle keeper data following alleged breaches of criminal, civil and contract law remains, in most circumstances, a reasonable cause.

However, 14 new measures were introduced for both manual and electronic applications. Although companies who apply manually are not required to be Accredited Trade Association members (as are those who make requests via secure electronic links), they are required to provide a significant amount of additional evidence to support each and every application for data, as well as fully explaining the reason for their request for information, and how the information will be used. In the case of car parking enforcement companies, this includes providing a résumé of their business, evidence that the company is acting on the landowner's behalf, that a parking charging scheme is in operation, and where applicable, that the company is registered at Companies House and with the Information Commissioner's Office. All forms contain a note that reminds applicants that it is a criminal offence under Section 55 of the DPA to falsely obtain personal information.

If the additional evidence requirements are complied with, information is then released in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002.

The Agency carries out ad-hoc audits on companies and other public bodies to ensure that enquiries are appropriate.

Great Western Trains

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what further steps the Department will take in the event of a failure by First Great Western to fulfil its obligations under the remedial plan notice issued on 26 February 2008; and if she will make a statement. [192970]

Mr. Tom Harris: Material non-compliance with the Remedial Agreement would be a default of the franchise agreement, which could lead to the Government terminating First Great Western's franchise.

Great Western Trains: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what performance levels were achieved by First Great Western for the Portsmouth to Cardiff rail service in each year from 1997; what plans she has to review the operation of this franchise; and if she will make a statement. [177350]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, on 26 February 2008, *Official Report,* columns 73-4WS.

In the year to 10 November 2007, the figures published by Network Rail show that FGW achieved an average punctuality of 82.3 per cent. across the franchise as a whole and 79.6 per cent. during the preceding four week period. The Department for Transport does not have historic records on the performance of trains on the Portsmouth to Cardiff route separately.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of additional *(a)* tube, *(b)* rail and *(c)* car movements to Heathrow Airport that will be generated by the opening of a third runway; what assessment she has made of the impact of these additional journeys on air pollution; and what financial contribution BAA will be expected to make to offset the effects of the third runway on (i) pollution, (ii) noise and (iii) congestion. [192368]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 March 2008]*: Our forecasts suggest that, compared with a 'do nothing' option in 2020, a third runway in 2020 would attract the following additional air passenger trips: 1.2 million a year on the underground, 2.3 million a year on heavy rail and 10.2 million a year on the road (including taxis). There is more detail in the supporting technical report on Surface Access published alongside our consultation document and available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/

Emissions from surface access transport have been fully taken into account in the modelling of local air quality impacts. Our assessment is that the critical limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulates (PM_{10}) can be met with a third runway in 2020, subject to appropriate constraints.

Funding the necessary infrastructure and any mitigation measures required as a result of the development would be a matter for BAA, as the airport operator, in light of the planning process.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints her Department received on the price of the Humber Bridge Toll in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [192436]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport receives correspondence on a range of issues related to the Humber Bridge. Most recently 8,334 people signed an e-petition on the No. 10 website calling for the Government to "cancel the Humber Bridge debt and reduce tolls". The Government's response has been posted on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page14247.asp

Copies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Landing Charges

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to prevent BAA from cross-subsidising landing charges through income from retail units in their airports. [192369]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 March 2008]*: Government have no role to play in the prices airports charge users for their services.

At designated airports in the UK, prices charged are a matter for the independent industry regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Competition Commission, and the airports themselves.

At all other airports in the UK, airports set their own charges in line with competitive market forces.

Mineral Waters

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many litres of bottled water were purchased by her Department in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [191258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Transport: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is available for promoting the use of public transport in Morecambe and Lunesdale. [192589]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The general revenue support grant, and, for some services the specific grants and capital allocations, as listed in my answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2767W, can be used by the local authorities to promote the use of public transport in Morecambe and Lunesdale.

In addition private sector funding, including from transport operators, may be available to promote public transport in the area.

Road Traffic Offences: Traffic Lights

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of vehicles travelling through red traffic signals. [193608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Traffic Act 1991 provides highways authorities with the power to install and maintain, on or near a highway, structures and camera equipment at traffic-light junctions to detect vehicles failing to comply with a red traffic light. A total of 600 red light cameras were operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales on 31 March 2007. Since 1 April 2007 the Department's guidance has allowed local authorities greater freedom to deploy red light cameras in order to prevent or reduce such incidents.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the amount of compensation paid by local authorities in response to claims for *(a)* injury and *(b)* damage caused by potholes in roads maintained by such authorities in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192403]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Highway maintenance on local roads in England is the responsibility of each local highways authority. This responsibility includes management of claims for compensation for personal injury and damage to vehicles resulting from alleged inadequate road maintenance. No estimate is made centrally of the likely level of compensation which may be paid by local authorities to settle such claims.

SS Richard Montgomery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* further research she has conducted and *(b)* representations she has received on the potential impact on the SS Richard Montgomery wreck of dredging the Thames Estuary for the Thames Gate Port shipping channel; and if she will make a statement. [190494]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is anticipated that the Port of London Authority will be carrying out a dredge in the Thames Estuary for the development for the London Gateway Port channel later this year. The SS Richard Montgomery lies over two kilometres away from the edge of the channel and is, therefore, well outside the range of this project.

Sustainable Development: Local Authorities

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assistance her Department provides to local authorities or directly elected mayors to participate in the European Commission's Civitas programme promoting sustainable energy cities. [192813]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We welcome the involvement of towns in the UK in the Civitas programme which is helping to drive local transport innovation and sharing of best practice about sustainable travel initiatives. On 3 March, I met representatives from Civitas initiatives across Europe and helped them celebrate the launch of the UK and Ireland Civitas network.

Sustainable Development: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of her Department's sustainable travel towns initiative; and what plans she has to include more towns in the initiative. [192814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Officials in the Department for Transport have, on request, provided advice to officials in the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) on how to set up a similar programme in Wales. They have also had discussions with officials in the Scottish Executive about their proposals for similar schemes there and with other territories in the British and Irish Isles through the British/Irish Council. It is for the WAG to decide on implementation of sustainable travel towns in Wales. Ministers have had no such discussions with their counterparts in the WAG.

The Department's sustainable travel towns complete their work in April 2009. We are considering the way forward and will make a decision in due course.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many plasma television screens have been purchased by her Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191077]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the last year the Department for Transport and its agencies purchased, for official purposes, 27 plasma television screens at a cost of £30,990.

This cost figure excludes spend on seven plasma television screens that were purchased as part of a package of conference room equipment—for the enhancement of videoconference facilities—as costs were aggregated with associated items and cannot be separated out.

All items are used for official purposes and as well as videoconferencing use, the screens are also used for training purposes and for the provision of information to members of the public. In many cases the screens do not contain any television links.

Data are not available on purchases undertaken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as spend is recorded via a generic code within their accounting systems and not separately itemised.

Transport: Finance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that transport funding per head of population in the north-east is increased to the national average. [192041]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure across English regions is not directly comparable and a wide range of factors are taken into account in determining how funding should be distributed, including the needs of different areas.

Investment in transport within the north-east is at record levels. The Department for Transport's spending on road and rail in the region has increased by 80 per cent. over the six years to 2007-08—from £165 million to £298 million. £457 million is provisionally allocated to fund major schemes in the north-east in the 10-year period to 2015-16 through the regional funding allocations process. And the recent local transport plan settlement allocated £245 million funding over the next three years for local authorities across the north-east, providing more funding per head of population in 2008-09 than any other region except the south-west.

The north-east also benefits from improvements to key corridors and services outside of the region. For example, A1 upgrades in Yorkshire will improve north-east connectivity to major cities to the south and improvements on East Coast Main Line and TransPennine Express benefit many regions.

Transport: Urban Areas

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to amend the governance and structure of urban transport authorities. [192407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Transport Bill, currently under consideration includes powers to enable authorities in urban areas and elsewhere outside London to carry out reviews of their existing transport governance arrangements and structures and to propose changes. These changes could then be enacted through secondary legislation.

The Government will consider whether to introduce secondary legislation applying to any particular area in the light of the review undertaken locally.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Parliamentary Tours

Bob Spink: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many tours for members of the public sponsored by hon. and right hon. Members were made of No. 10 Downing Street in each of the last five years; [192013]

(3) how many people *(a)* visited and *(b)* had a tour of No. 10 Downing Street in each year since 1997; what restrictions are placed on persons (i) visiting and (ii) having a tour of 10 Downing Street; on how many occasions he was present when a tour was given; how many (A) visits and (B) tours were organised by (1) Labour and (2) Conservative hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [192528]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally. My Office has a programme of events at Downing street in order to give access to as many people as possible. This includes school visits to Downing street and receptions for a wide cross-section of the community.

Jennifer Moses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what job title Jennifer Moses has been given; and whether she is subject to the rules applying to special advisers; [191970]

(2) whether Jennifer Moses was appointed following an open recruitment procedure; and whether recruitment consultants were used during the appointment process; [191971]

(3) whether Jennifer Moses has been appointed on a permanent contract. [191972]

The Prime Minister: Jennifer Moses is appointed as an unpaid special adviser under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister whether the criteria upon which Lord Malloch-Brown was assigned a Ministerial residence include *(a)* security considerations, *(b)* to enable better performance of official duties and *(c)* to enable proper performance of official duties. [193191]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 6 August 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12832.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Romania

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1798-9W, on Romania, if he will make it his policy to make an official visit to Romania other than to attend an EU or NATO conference, during 2008; and if he will make a statement. [192843]

The Prime Minister: The Government are working to strengthen ties between the UK and Romania and we welcomed Prime Minister Tariceanu's visit to the UK in December 2007. I am looking forward to the NATO Summit in Bucharest. For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1359W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations, what the circumstances were surrounding the loss of each of the 27 Desert Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles; [193157]

(2) how many of the 27 lost Desert Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles have been *(a)* recovered, *(b)* not recovered and are believed to be in enemy control and *(c)* not recovered and are not believed to be in enemy control. [193158]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 27 Desert Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) lost in Afghanistan all crashed either as a result of technical failure or following an unexplained loss of signal.

Of the 27 lost, one was subsequently recovered. We are aware of two that came into the possession of opposing forces. Due to their lightweight design and the harsh operating environment, the Desert Hawk would be expected to break apart on impact, putting them beyond serviceable use. Even if recovered intact the UAV itself offers no value to opposing forces, and these losses therefore raise no operational security concerns.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the six Merlin helicopters purchased from Denmark will be deployed in Afghanistan. [193229]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Armed Forces: Genetics

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether DNA samples of soldiers taken under the voluntary DNA sampling scheme will be stored on the National DNA database; and if he will make a statement. [190212]

Derek Twigg: DNA matching is a near-failsafe method of identifying a deceased individual but only if there is a reference sample with which to compare the bodily remains. At such times, collecting samples from personal effects or family members can prolong the identification process and be traumatic for the grieving family. The aim of our voluntary DNA sampling scheme is to minimise the pain and distress to families by taking a reference sample, which could be analysed in the event of the suspected death of the individual and DNA obtained from the sample at that stage, to enable deceased personnel to be identified quickly and with less intrusion on the family.

Since 1999, the MOD has offered aircrew the opportunity of storing reference samples from which DNA could later be identified in order to hasten the identification process. The MOD has now decided that, from later this year, all military, MOD civilian and other entitled civilian personnel deploying to operational theatres will be offered the same opportunity to store reference samples for use in the event that their death is suspected and a body or body parts required identification. In due course, the offer of voluntary reference sampling will be extended to new recruits from all three services. Eventually, therefore, the programme will include all service personnel.

The samples are currently taken in the form of bloodspot samples. However, in future, it is intended to take buccal (cheek) swab samples which can be collected either before operational deployment or at regular dental checks. The samples are then stored in secure cabinets in rooms with restricted access. The samples are stored in an un-processed state and therefore the DNA profiles have not been created and are not stored on any database. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states that voluntary DNA samples can only be analysed and entered onto the National DNA Database with the specific written consent of the individual. The MOD has no plans to amend its policy to include this process.

Samples held by the MOD will be withdrawn from storage if requested by a Coroner, for the purpose of post-mortem identification, or at the request of the individual. It is possible that a sample could be released by court order, although, very strong arguments would have to be presented to the court to obtain an order for release.

Since the inception of the scheme, samples have been released on two occasions only, at the request of a coroner, for the purpose of post-mortem identification of six personnel in total. There have been no other requests for the release of samples for any other reason, and as such have never been used in a criminal investigation.

The sample will be destroyed by incineration when the individual leaves the armed forces, after 45 years, or at the request of the individual, whichever is sooner.

The circumstances in which the samples are taken, stored and might be used are fully explained in internal defence communications.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps are being taken by Defence Estates to reduce the number of void properties on the estate; what discussions he has had with Defence Estates on the practice of releasing information on the number of voids; what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the spending of revenue from the sale of properties on the estate on service accommodation; what the cost of void properties was to his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [192329]

(2) how many void properties there are in the Defence Estate; how many such properties have been void for *(a)* one year, *(b)* three years, *(c)* five years and *(d)* 10 years and over; how much of the £3 billion allocated by his Department to rent, routine costs and leasing of service accommodation he projects will be spent on rent in each of the next 10 years; how much was spent on maintenance and emergency repairs of void properties in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192330]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate of around 240,000 hectares under continual review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes. Details of all MOD properties that are currently void or have been void for the periods specified are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, detailed records are held of void service family accommodation properties (SFA) in Great Britain (GB) and at 5 March 2008, there were 9,066 void properties out of a stock of some 49,000, of which, the following have been void for over a year.

Number of years	*Number of properties*
Between 1 year and 3 years	2,248
Between 3 years and 5 years	364
Between 5 years and 10 years	203
Over 10 years	109

The Department accepts that the remaining amount of void accommodation is unacceptably high and work is in hand to reduce this. Since March 2007, the total number of void SFA worldwide has reduced from 13,336 to 12,240 properties.

The Department is seeking to reduce the number of void SFA properties by seeking to maximise the number of properties that can be declared surplus to requirements, bringing forward decisions on the future use of sites and by reducing the number of properties retained in anticipation of agreed deployments.

No separate assessment of the cost of void properties is made. However, the majority of SFA in England and Wales is owned by Annington Homes Ltd. and an average rent of £3,500 per annum is payable. In Scotland, SFA is owned by the MOD and no rental charges are incurred. All GB SFA incur costs in respect of contributions in lieu of council tax, which averages £600 per void property per annum. Maintenance costs average £1,600 per property per annum. Minimal maintenance will be carried out where properties are due to be disposed of or are scheduled for major refurbishment.

Ministers are kept informed of estate matters on a regular basis and are routinely notified in advance of significant releases of information about the estate.

The projected breakdown of the £3 billion expenditure is as follows:

	£ billion
Annington Homes Ltd.	1.6
Other Rent	0.4
Leases	0.3
Other Costs	0.7

It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on rent in each financial year, but we currently plan to spend some £2 billion on the rental of GB service accommodation over the next 10 years.

Details of the amount spent on the maintenance and emergency repair of void properties over the last five years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD agrees disposal targets with HM Treasury as part of the periodic Spending Reviews and these form part of the Defence budget. Where disposal targets have been exceeded, HM Treasury has allowed the Department to invest any surplus in key priorities, including the provision of new and improved accommodation. As part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the proceeds from the disposal of Chelsea barracks were specifically ring-fenced for investment in new and improved accommodation for service personnel.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unit will back-fill the requirement for the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) if the current SLE is deployed as part of the pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force. [193223]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1st Battalion the Welsh Guards are currently providing the Operational Reserve Force (ORF) with the 2nd Battalion the Royal Ghurkha Rifles undertaking the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) role. Should the ORF be deployed the SLE role will remain with 2nd Battalion the Royal Ghurkha Rifles.

In due course 2nd Battalion The Rifles will take over both the ORF and SLE roles. Should they be required to deploy, the SLE role would be filled by three Commando Bde or alternatively the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battle Group (SSFI BG).

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many under 25 year olds were recruited to the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF in each of the last 10 years. [193360]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of under 25 year olds recruited[1] of the regular[2] forces by service in each of the last 10 financial years.

[1] Figures show all intake from civil life to UK regular forces including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

[2] Figures are for UK regular forces (including both trained and untrained personnel), and therefore excludes Gurkhas, full-time reserve service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

	All Services	*Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*
1997-98	21,700	4,150	14,370	3,180
1998-99	23,950	4,320	15,870	3,750
1999-00	23,490	4,500	15,360	3,630
2000-01	21,070	4,140	13,650	3,270
2001-02	21,530	4,520	13,570	3,450
2002-03	23,500	4,630	14,840	4,040
2003-04	21,010	3,600	13,620	3,780
2004-05	15,590	3,200	10,470	1,920
2005-06	16,240	3,400	11,600	1,230
2006-07	[1]16,450	[2]3,240	[1]11,640	[2]1,570

[1] Provisional

[2] Revised.

Notes:

1. Figures are sourced from the annual publication TSP19 "UK Regular Forces Intake and outflow by age for financial year 2006-07".
2. Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system, Naval Service statistics from 1 October 2006, and Army and RAF statistics from 1 April 2007 and RAF statistics from 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review.
3. Due to rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. *Source:* DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Sick Leave

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel of each unit are unfit for duty for medical reasons; and how many have been diagnosed with diseases under each international classification of diseases code. [186302]

Derek Twigg: The MOD collates, on a quarterly basis, "fit for task" figures, which provide a measure of all trained personnel that are considered medically fit for the task they were posted to their ship/unit/station to perform. It is the balance of the trained strength that is not medically downgraded. It is important to note, however, that the majority of medically downgraded personnel remain fit enough to work in some other capacity and therefore continue to make a contribution to operational effectiveness.

The following table shows the numbers, broken down by service, of trained personnel who were fully, not fully, and unfit for task, as at 30 December 2007:

Service	*Fully fit for task*	*Not fully fit for task*	*Unfit for task*	*Total trained strength*
Royal Navy	31,346	3,529	100	34,975
Army	78,659	15,582	1,028	95,269
RAF	36,882	4,332	197	41,411
Total	146,887	23,443	1,325	171,655

The figures broken down by unit, or by the World Health Organisation's "International Classification of Diseases", could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what improvements have been made since 2002 in the provision of an effective supervisory regime in the Army training establishment; and what was the ratio between numbers of Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and recruits at *(a)* Deepcut, *(b)* Catterick barracks and *(c)* the 10 other largest Army training establishments in each of the last five years. [172300]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2002 the key improvements that have been made have been designed to reduce the risk to the welfare and wellbeing of recruits and trainees. These include:

> a revised Supervisory Care Policy that mandates that all commanding officers have a Supervisory Care Directive underpinned by a Commander's Risk Assessment;
>
> the opening in June 2007 of the Army Recruiting and Training Division Staff Leadership School which is dedicated to instructor training;
>
> improved training for instructors which, since October 2007, is accredited to meet the National Standard required of those delivering work based training in the Learning and Skills Sector;
>
> improved care and management of those deemed to be 'at risk'; and,
>
> a revised 'Under 18' policy, which provides comprehensive guidance to commanding officers as to how the care of personnel under 18 is to be managed.

The statistical information requested is not held centrally, but is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Joan Humble:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 12 December 2007, (Official Report, column 609W) about the ratio between Officers, Other Ranks and recruits.

I am unable to provide the information in the format requested as the data have not been recorded in a consistent format over the period and different elements of the data have not been recorded at all. However, I am able to provide a snapshot of numbers in November each year since 2003 which provides an appreciation of the numbers involved. It should be noted that not all permanent staff posts are training posts and therefore the numbers cannot be taken as representative of supervisory ratios.

The information is provided in the attached Annex A.

Annex A

	2003			*2004*			*2005*			*2006*			*2007*		
	Off	*ORs*	*Rec*	*Off*	*ORs*	*Rec*	*Off*	*ORs*	*Rec*	*Off*	*ORs*	*Rec*	*Off*	*ORs*	*Rec*
SCHINF (Catterick)	118	607	1,338	111	570	807	116	630	975	120	812	1,270	120	599	1,641
DCLPA (Deepcut)[1]	127		1,130	116		818	128		826	131		846	121		862
ATR(P)	55	269	708	59	274	717	59	274	628	63	286	812	68	278	1,175
RSA	4	49	232	4	55	203	4	55	177	4	55	200	4	55	154
RMAS	156	468	769	124	458	719	130	458	730	132	490	700	103	444	797
RSME-Const Engr Sch	49	281	480	49	281	591	49	281	515	49	281	510	49	281	946
RSME-Cbt Engr Sch	39	281	1141	39	281	633	39	281	577	39	281	627	39	281	—
AFC(H)	69	218	1,210	67	224	1,207	67	213	1,150	69	226	1,171	65	222	1,130
ARMCEN	37	218	290	39	248	107	34	243	202	37	240	221	37	260	303
ATR(B)	43	195	737	43	185	553	40	179	695	39	197	650	39	183	610
ATR(W)	31	133	416	30	139	318	30	139	423	29	131	475	29	140	569
SAAvN	57	109	197	55	131	168	54	127	150	54	128	150	56	125	133

Key:

Off = Officers, ORs = Other Ranks, Rec = Recruits

Key:

SCHINF = School of Infantry, DCLPA = Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration, ATR(P) = Army Training Regiment (Pirbright), RSA = Royal School of Artillery, RMAS = Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, RSME = Royal School of Military Engineering, Const Engr Sch = Construction Engineer School, Cbt Engr Sch = Combat Engineer School, AFC(H) = Army Foundation College (Harrogate), ARMCEN = Armour Centre, ATR(B) = Army Training Regiment (Bassingbourn), ATR(W) = Army Training Regiment (Winchester), SAAvn = School of Army Aviation.

[1] Figures provided by DCLPA are for those Officers and Other Ranks in duty of care roles in 25 Training Support Regiment at Deepcut.

Notes:

1. Unless stated otherwise Officers and Other Ranks figures will include Headquarters staff. Not all permanent staff posts are training or duty of care posts, and the numbers given cannot be taken as being representative of supervisory ratios. In addition, there will also be civilian staff working at each establishment, some of whom will have direct training roles.
2. The figures show the ratios as at November in each year. Recruit numbers fluctuate over the course of a year.
3. Many of these training establishments will also provide career training to members of the Field Army. The Recruit figures shown only include those under basic training (phase 1) or trade training (phase 2).

Courts Martial

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time was for a case to go to court martial in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [193084]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the average waiting times for a case to go to court martial by calendar year for each service.

		Days
	2006	2007
RAF	226	267
Army	242	240
RN	81	74

Notes:

1. The RAF and Army figures are based on the length of time taken from the date an incident was either formally reported, or an official police investigation was initiated, to the actual starting date of the court martial hearing.
2. The increase in the RAF figures from 2005 (56 days) is due to a different recording procedure. Previously the RAF measured the average delay between the point that the case papers were received by the court administration unit (which administers arrangements for the court martial) to the trial date and appearing at court martial. It is not possible to provide data within the same parameters for 2006 and 2007 as information was not transferred to the current working database.
3. The RN figures are based on the length of time taken from when the Naval Prosecution Authority prefers charges to the first day of a trial.
4. Not all applications made in 2007, where charges have been preferred, have yet reached trial (although the majority have).
5. The averages shown are heavily affected by individual cases, where for example, there may be unusual delays in obtaining evidence, such as fraud or where computer analysis is involved.

Defence: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* technical and *(b)* financial aspect of EADS's bid to (i) supply the Royal Air Force as part of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft project and (ii) supply the US Air Force with refuelling aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [192974]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: EADS is a member of the AirTanker consortium which was announced Preferred Bidder for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) PFI project in 2005 following a competition. The Ministry of Defence has undertaken a detailed assessment of AirTanker's PFI proposal, which offers a cost effective solution to the FSTA requirement. The United States has conducted its own, separate, assessment of EADS' proposals to meet its future air-to-air refuelling needs.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191270]

Derek Twigg: Between 1 January and 31 December 2007 two regulatory impact assessments have been published by the Ministry of Defence. All impact assessments published by the Department can be found on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/ConsultationsandCommunications/PublicConsultations/

From April 2008, impact assessments from all departments will be published on a central website.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1589W, on departmental marketing, what the dimensions were of the display boards in his Department's London buildings. [192480]

Derek Twigg: The dimensions of each of the display boards in the MOD London buildings were 2200mm high by 800mm wide.

Departmental Reviews

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's *(a)* Pension Abatement Review and *(b)* X Factor Review for financial years 1997-98 to 2007-08. [185714]

Derek Twigg: The 2007-08 X-Factor Review provided evidence to both the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) and the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB). Although the AFPRB recommendations have already been announced, the SSRB has yet to submit its recommendation for the senior military. Once the Government have responded to the SSRB's recommendations, I will place a redacted version of the review in the Library.

The Pension Abatement Review is carried out independently of MOD by the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body. The AFPRB report for each pension abatement review can be found on:

http://www.ome.uk.com

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many written Questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193398]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is as follows:

(a) 17 questions including three named day questions.

(b) Seven questions including two named day questions.

(c) Nine questions.

(d) 20 questions including two named day questions.

Ex-servicemen: Employment Schemes

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider introducing a scheme to assist veterans leaving the armed forces to employment on a similar model to the US authorities, Troops to Teachers programme. [191326]

Derek Twigg: Currently, some 68 service leavers a year already enter a teaching career. Additionally, as a result of an approach by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the MOD has been working for the past year, initially with the trust but latterly with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), on a scheme to encourage more service leavers to take up a career in secondary level specialist teaching in science, maths and IT subjects as a contribution to addressing the national shortage in secondary level STEM subject teachers. Apart from advertising through the Career Transition Partnership opportunities for individuals to consider teaching and outlining the existing routes into the profession, we are looking to develop routes to attract suitable service leavers to become teachers who do not already possess the academic qualifications normally necessary to enter teacher training. This work is a still at an early stage..

The MOD is an active participant in the recently launched wider DCSF Transition to Teaching initiative to encourage career changers into the teaching profession, and is represented on the Steering Committee alongside such blue chip employers as IBM, KPMG, Thales, Astra Zenica and Lockheed Martin Aerospace. Most service leavers are very successful in securing civilian employment: about 95 per cent. of those using the Career Transition Partnership who wish to continue to work are in new careers within six months of discharge from the armed forces.

In view of the initiatives already in hand, the Department has no plans to adopt the US Troops to Teachers programme.

Navy: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each ship type in the Royal Navy in the latest period for which figures are available. [193090]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average unit tour interval by surface ship type over the last five years, defining a tour as a ship being away from its base port for more than three months, is as follows (rounded to the nearest month):

	Months
Land Platform Dock	17
Landing Platform Dock Helicopter	20
CVS	31
Destroyers	
T42	16
Frigates	
T22	14
T23	16
Mine Counter Measures Vessels	17
HMS Endurance	5

Exceptions:

Survey Vessels have up to five year deployments.

River Class Patrol Vessels on Fishery Protection undertake eight week (approx) taskings.

Falkland Island Patrol Vessel permanently deployed.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175306]

Derek Twigg: The only such body for which this Department has responsibility is the MOD Fire Service maintained by the Secretary of State for Defence in its role as an Enforcing Authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This however has not resulted in any restructuring costs, nor has it been necessary to maintain a separate record of the costs to the Fire Service of carrying out its duties under the 2005 order.

Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup's mission statement is. [193099]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Small Scale Focussed Intervention Battlegroup (SSFIBG) is a new capability formed on 15 February 2008 and as such it does not currently have a formal mission statement.

The SSFIBG's purpose is to provide a Contingency Force Element to Reinforce the Joint Rapid Reaction Forces when either the Airborne Task Force or lead Commando Group is deployed on operations. In such an eventuality it would be given a mission statement.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he uses to determine whether the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup is deployed on operations. [193100]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are a number of force elements at high readiness held by the Department in order to undertake a range of tasks at short notice, including the Small Scale Focussed Intervention Battlegroup. The criteria used to determine the exact force package deployed will depend on the precise nature of the requirement, which will vary depending on circumstances.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Non-Profit Making Associations: Ethnic Groups

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding has been allocated to support black and minority ethnic social enterprise *(a)* to date in 2007-08 and *(b)* over the next three years. [191996]

Phil Hope: 20 per cent. (totalling around £600,000 over the three years to 2009-10), of the Office of the Third Sector's Strategic Partners programme funding for social enterprise partners is ring-fenced to ensure that those partners reach out effectively to black and minority ethnic communities to enable them to articulate their needs and issues.

The Office of the Third Sector will consult and involve partners in policy development, taking into account the evidence, advice and opinion they provide.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to establish a black and minority ethnic social enterprise network; and if he will make a statement. [191997]

Phil Hope: As a strategic partner of the Office of the Third Sector's, the Social Enterprise Coalition invests 25 per cent. of its strategic grant (£137,000 in 2007-08) in undertaking a lead role on behalf of the social enterprise movement, to develop a plan for engaging and integrating black and minority ethnic (BME) social enterprise into the wider movement.

The Coalition is currently engaged in the consultation phase of this work, taking views from a wide range of BME organisations and individuals. This includes developing options for ensuring that the voice of BME social enterprise is heard.

The outcome of this work will be available in the autumn.

Voluntary Organisations: York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations providing services in the Vale of York are three-year contracts; [193799]

(2) what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in the Vale of York are awarded three-year contracts. [193800]

Phil Hope: This Government are committed to ensuring that three year funding for third sector organisations becomes the norm rather than the exception. I will be reporting on Government progress in meeting this funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three year funding from 2009 onwards.

The information requested is currently not recorded centrally.

WALES

Legislative Competence: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library copies of correspondence between his Department and *(a)* the National Assembly for Wales and *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers between 1 May 2007 and 1 February 2008 relating to the legislative procedure for Wales including legislative competence orders; and if he will make a statement. [193548]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We have had frequent exchanges with both the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers about the new legislative arrangements for Wales. We are committed to making this process work and will continue to have discussions with all relevant parties. To make such correspondence available in the Library would restrict our ability to conduct business effectively.

TREASURY

Income Tax: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of taxpayers in Beverley and Holderness paid the higher rate of income tax in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192897]

Jane Kennedy: The number of individual income taxpayers by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs' website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Estimates are based on the survey of personal incomes, of which 2005-06 is the latest available.

Information on the number of higher rate taxpayers at constituency level is not readily available. Sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, therefore any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

Stamp Duties: Carbon Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes had claimed the zero rate of stamp duty applicable to zero-carbon homes as of 7 March 2008. [193547]

Angela Eagle: Of those transactions for which a stamp duty land tax certificate was issued in between 1 October 2007 and 29 February 2008, nine transactions claimed the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes. No data currently exist for March.

The tax relief will help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

We expect the numbers of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. For example, in December 2007 the Government announced details of 200 new homes to be built to a zero-carbon standard in Hanham Hall, near Bristol. The media release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/611694

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Suicides: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of people who committed suicide in Essex were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each of the last five years; [193506]

(2) how many people committed suicide in Essex in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [193507]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(1) What proportion of suicides in Essex were (a) male and (b) female in each of the last five years. (193506)

(2) How many suicides there were in Essex in each of the last five years; and what proportion was of each decile age group. (193507)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by (1) sex, and (2) 10 year age group, in Essex county, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available). The proportion of suicides by (1) sex and (2) 10 year age group is also shown.

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, and proportion of suicides, Essex county[1, 2], by sex, 2002-06[3]

	Males		Females		Persons[4]	
	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage
2002	72	79	19	21	91	100
2003	78	79	21	21	99	100
2004	68	71	28	29	96	100
2005	82	73	30	27	112	100
2006	84	70	36	30	120	100

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Percentages do not always add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, and proportion of suicides, Essex county[1], by age group[2], 2001-06[3]

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Age	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage	Deaths	Percentage
15-24	10	11	7	7	16	17	14	13	10	8
25-34	11	12	20	20	18	19	22	20	21	18
35-44	22	24	22	22	20	21	30	27	22	18
45-54	17	19	21	21	17	18	18	16	24	20
55-64	15	16	15	15	13	14	7	6	16	13
65-74	8	9	3	3	5	5	6	5	12	10
75-84	5	5	6	6	5	5	10	9	6	5
85+	3	3	5	5	2	2	5	4	9	8
Total[4]	91	100	99	100	96	100	112	100	120	100

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar-year.
[4] Percentages do not always add to 100 due to rounding.

Suicides: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnic origin. [193615]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) age, (b) sex, and (c) ethnic origin. (193615)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by (a) age and (b) sex in Tamworth parliamentary constituency, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures on suicides by (c) ethnic group are not available, as ethnicity is not recorded at death registration.

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Tamworth parliamentary constituency[1], by age-group[2], 1997 to 2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)		
	Age group		
	15 to 44	45 to 74	75+
1997	4	1	0
1998	12	2	4
1999	1	1	0
2000	6	4	0
2001	6	3	0
2002	2	3	1
2003	3	2	0
2004	8	1	0
2005	1	2	1
2006	1	1	0

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Tamworth parliamentary constituency[1, 2], by sex, 1997 to 2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Males	*Females*
1997	4	1
1998	11	7
1999	1	1
2000	9	1
2001	7	2
2002	3	3
2003	2	3
2004	7	2
2005	3	1
2006	1	1

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

VAT: Exemptions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice his Department has received on whether the exemption from VAT on services provided granted to local leisure trusts is allowable under the European Union's 6th VAT Directive. [193004]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs regularly receives legal and other advice in relation to its administration of the VAT rules. The VAT exemption for supplies of certain services closely linked to sport or physical education by non-profit making bodies is fully consistent with Article 132(1)(m) of the EC Principal VAT Directive.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes where the admission method was via accident and emergency for an alcohol related diagnosis there were in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS trust. [190344]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Hospitals

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions there were to hospitals in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; and what proportion these represented of all admissions in each area in each year. [190821]

Dawn Primarolo: This requested information has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times patients in each NHS hospital trust in England have had their stomachs pumped due to *(a)* excessive drinking and *(b)* chemical intoxication in each of the last five years. [193436]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were admitted to hospital in England for (i) alcoholic liver disease and (ii) alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver in each year since 1997. [193683]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Ambulance Services: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulance and air ambulance crews serve north-east Essex; and what the ratio of ambulance crews to 1,000 population is *(a)* in north-east Essex and *(b)* in England. [193423]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of ambulance and air ambulance crews and the ratio of ambulance crews to 1,000 populations for north-east Essex and England is not collected centrally. However, data on ambulance work force are contained within table 5 of the Information Centre's Non-Medical Workforce Census Bulletin (1996-2006), which is available via the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/nhsstaff2006/nonmed/Nonmedical%20Bulletin%20Tables%201-9%20final.xls

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many times the ambulance service *(a)* did not meet the eight minute response target and *(b)* took over 15 minutes to respond to a Category A emergency in (i) north-east Essex, (ii) the east of England and (iii) England in 2006-07; [193425]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the ambulance service in north-east Essex; and what steps he plans to take to improve their performance. [193426]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held centrally for ambulance response times in north-east Essex. The Department collects ambulance response time data that are recorded by ambulance trusts in their entirety.

The East of England Ambulance Service was formed on 1 July 2006, following the reconfiguration of ambulance trusts in England, and met the Category A eight-minute target for that reporting period (2006-07). Response time data for the trusts that merged to form the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust before 2006 and for England are available in the annual KA34 Statistical Bulletin 'Ambulance Services, England 2006-07'.

Copies of the bulletins are available in the Library and the bulletin for 2006-07 is also available at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

Information on how many times an ambulance service took more than 15 minutes to respond to a Category A emergency is not collected centrally.

The Department monitors performance of ambulance services at ambulance trust level, therefore such information on north-east Essex is not held centrally. It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs), as the local headquarters of the national health service, and primary care trusts, as commissioners, to ensure that national response time standards are delivered and maintained by ambulance trusts.

In April 2008, changes to performance reporting will be introduced, which will align the reported response times more closely to patients' experience. The Department is supporting ambulance trusts to prepare for this change by providing advice and specialist support, and facilitating the sharing of data, analysis and best practice.

The Department implemented a £25 million capital incentive scheme during 2006-07. A similar scheme operated in 2004-05. Both schemes rewarded trusts who demonstrated improved levels of performance including response times.

Autism

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the prevalence of autism in adults. [191784]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1968W.

Community Care

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults with learning disabilities, *(b)* older people, *(c)* adults with physical disabilities and *(d)* adults with mental health problems received continuing care per 50,000 of population in each primary care trust area in England in each quarter of 2007. [192341]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected by the Department. The Department collects information on the number of people receiving continuing health care. I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1062-68W, to the hon. Member for Leeds, North-West (Greg Mulholland).

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188218]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department including its agencies has no contract with a United States (US) registered service provider for information storage, processing or analysis.

The Department, including its agencies has engaged a United Kingdom subsidiary of a US registered service provider to manage (aspects of) storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European economic area[1] by UK data controllers. Contracts are based on UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

[1] The 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the final regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in 'Regulatory Impact Assessments for 2007' (CM7297) which is available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp

For the Department, 12 have been listed.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final RIAs published between 1 July and 31 December 2007.

From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

Dieticians: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nutritionists were employed by the NHS in *(a)* Bexley Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the London region in each of the last five years. [191958]

Ann Keen: Information on number of nutritionists is not held centrally.

The only available information is for dietetics staff, held by national health service trusts. Information is therefore provided in the following table for those organisations within the London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, which employ dietetics staff. Bexley Primary Care Trust (PCT) does not employ any dietetics staff.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified dietetics staff in specified organisation within the London SHA area as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	15	13	14	11	18
Barnet PCT	—	—	4	5	4
Barts and the London NHS Trust	31	38	36	46	49
Brent Teaching PCT	15	18	19	33	22
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	8	7	8	7	8
Bromley PCT	6	9	12	16	15
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	—	—	1	1	1
Camden PCT	—	—	—	—	1
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	1	—	—	1	—
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	11	14	14	13	15
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	6	4	3	3	3
Ealing PCT	8	12	13	12	10
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust	21	20	29	28	29
Greenwich Teaching PCT	2	1	1	2	2
Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	30	42	43	44	45
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	3	3	4	2	2
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	35	38	40	40	34
Haringey Teaching PCT	30	35	27	28	25
Havering PCT	11	12	11	10	13
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	6	6	9	9	8
Hillingdon PCT	8	2	1	2	1
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3	5	8	4	7
Hounslow PCT	10	10	10	10	11
Islington PCT	1	6	9	13	12
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	4	6	7	7	8
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	20	20	23	21	22
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	25	21	22	20	22
Lambeth PCT	2	2	2	2	2
Lewisham PCT	2	2	3	2	5
Mayday Health Care NHS Trust	17	18	17	17	14
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	6	6	7	9	7
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	30	31	31	27	27
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	6	3	7	7	8
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	11	10	11	14	9
Redbridge PCT	5	5	9	12	10
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	n/a	2	1	2	1
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	14	15	12	14	12
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	18	19	20	19	18
Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5	5	7	8	11
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	2	3	3	3	3
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	19	21	20	25	24
St. Mary's NHS Trust	17	22	20	20	17
Sutton and Merton PCT	11	13	16	16	17
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	5	6	10	8	10
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	9	9	10	11	10
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	18	23	22	21	21
Waltham Forest PCT	—	8	11	11	11
Wandsworth PCT	8	10	12	9	11
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1
Westminster PCT	3	4	5	12	12

n/a = .. Not Applicable. Where PCT did not exist or no longer exists.

Note:

1. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than one per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Drugs: Prisons

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new prison clinical drug treatment announced in the Drugs Strategy will include treatment for cannabis use. [192363]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The clinical drug treatment elements of the new Drug Strategy will not include treatment for cannabis use.

There is no evidence to support any clinical intervention for the management of cannabis dependence. There are however, effective psychosocial interventions to address this problem so heavy users of cannabis can receive intensive interventions which are available in prisons through the counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare service teams.

East of England Ambulance Service

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the East of England Ambulance Service is in 2007-08. [193424]

Mr. Bradshaw: Budget information for individual national health service organisations is not held centrally. Trusts are expected to set their own budgets to ensure their income covers their planned expenditure. However, the Department does collect historical accounting data from trusts. Self-reported accounting data from the East of England Ambulance Trust for 2006-07 reported a total income of £189,026,000.

Hearing Aid Council

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects to abolish the Hearing Aid Council; what plans he has for the regulation of hearing aid audiologists following the Council's abolition; and how such regulatory functions will be financed during 2008. [192561]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

My officials continue to work towards the deadline of April 2009, which the Government committed to in response to the Hampton Report.

We intend to repeal the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 as part of the transfer process and officials are considering appropriate legislative routes.

Following abolition, it is planned that audiologists will be regulated by the Health Professions Council. Prior to abolition and during 2008, the Hearing Aid Council will continue to regulate private sector audiologists and it will continue to be financed by fees paid by registered hearing aid dispensers.

Hypertension: Medical Treatments

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension; [193502]

(2) what progress is being made in improving the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension; and if he will make a statement. [193503]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has had no recent discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on this issue.

NICE is currently conducting an appraisal of drugs for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension and has recently issued an appraisal consultation document setting out its draft conclusions. Stakeholders have until 20 March 2008 to submit comments, which will be considered by NICE in formulating its final guidance. NICE plans to issue final guidance later in 2008. Further information can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11708

In addition, the national pulmonary hypertension centres of the United Kingdom and Ireland have published "A Consensus Statement on the Management of Pulmonary Hypertension in Clinical Practice in the UK and Ireland" in March 2008. This is available at:

www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/ClinicalInformation/PulmonaryHypertension/NationalPulmonaryHypertensionServices/tabid/205/Default.aspx

Learning Disability: Advocacy

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average funding for advocacy provided to individuals with a learning disability was in each local authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available; what the total funding for such advocacy was in each local authority area in that period; and if he will make a statement. [192339]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

As autonomous public bodies, local authorities choose how much they invest in advocacy for people with learning disabilities and for advocacy overall.

Meat Hygiene Service: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of future funding for the Meat Hygiene Service; and what plans he has to establish full cost recovery from the industry; [191206]

(2) what assessment the Government has made of the impact of reducing funding to the Meat Hygiene Service on *(a)* disease control, *(b)* the agricultural economy, *(c)* the future of the service, *(d)* public confidence in food quality, *(e)* public health and *(f)* the profitability of small abattoirs. [191292]

Dawn Primarolo: I understand from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the Meat Hygiene Service, an Executive agency of the FSA, is funded by Government and charges levied to the meat industry. Over the next four years it is planned to reduce gross costs from an estimated £91 million in 2007-08 to an estimated £75 million in real terms in 2011-12. Estimated funding from Government and industry over this period is as follows:

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Government funding	58.9	51.8	45.3	39.5
Industry funding	24.3	26.6	32.5	35.5
Total funding	83.2	78.4	77.8	75

Once we have concluded our work with stakeholders to agree a new system of charges, we will undertake a full impact assessment to ensure that these cost reductions will not be at the expense of animal welfare at slaughter, disease control, public confidence in food or of public health.

It is envisaged that support for businesses will continue while official controls costs are reduced. Any proposed changes to the current charging arrangements will be subject to full public consultation.

Meat Hygiene Service: Inspections

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average cost to the Meat Hygiene Service of a *(a)* bovine, *(b)* ovine, *(c)* porcine and *(d)* avian carcass inspection was in each of the last three years; [191204]

(2) how many *(a)* bovine, *(b)* ovine, *(c)* porcine and *(d)* avian carcass inspections were carried out by the Meat Hygiene Service in each of the last three years; and how much was received from the meat processing industry in fees for such inspections in each such year. [191295]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of inspections carried out by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) by species in each of the last three financial years was:

	Throughput		
Category	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Bovine	1,844,268	2,012,225	1,942,047
Ovine	14,987,090	15,804,883	15,154,958
Porcine	7,950,660	7,800,208	7,927,815
Avian	777,809,102	788,806,931	786,583,105

Analysis of the average cost of carcass inspection by species is not possible as the time spent by MHS staff on inspection work is not recorded against species.

The Meat Hygiene Service calculates the cost of the delivery of official controls, which includes all inspection and audit activities undertaken by MHS personnel during pre-slaughter, slaughter, post-slaughter and animal by-products control, on an hourly basis.

The total cost of the delivery of official controls by the Meat Hygiene Service to the meat industry in each of the last three financial years was:

	£ million
2006-07	56.7
2005-06	55.1
2004-05	54.0

Total income received from the meat industry for the same period was:

	£ million
2006-07	23.4
2005-06	23.5
2004-05	23.5

The difference between the cost and income results from the current charging system under which a Food Business Operator pays the lesser of hourly charges or a fee calculated on the throughput charge per animal or per tonne of meat that is processed. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) funds the difference between cost and income, which is in effect a subsidy to the meat industry.

In addition to the delivery of official controls, the MHS undertakes work on behalf of government customers, principally FSA and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a full cost recovery basis. This work includes the supervision of brain stem removal for bovine spongiform encephalopathy testing, monitoring and reporting on animal welfare and the supervision of licensed abattoirs participating in the older cattle disposal scheme. The cost of the work in the last three years was:

	£ million
2006-07	34.6
2005-06	33.1
2004-05	29.7

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the reporting system of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency; [192860]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to inform the public about unsafe medicines and medical equipment available on the market. [192861]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regularly publishes safety information on its website in relation to the safety of medicines and medical devices.

In August 2007, the MHRA launched a new monthly electronic bulletin, "Drug Safety Update", which gives healthcare professionals the latest information and advice about medicines, including safety issues. The bulletin is available on the MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetyguidance/DrugSafetyUpdate/index.htm

On 18 February 2008 the MHRA launched a new reporting form both on-line and in paper format to make it easier and more accessible for members of the public to report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the Yellow Card Scheme. The online element allows important information to be entered directly onto the MHRA's database. This is being publicised via a six week campaign in community pharmacies across the United Kingdom. The campaign aims to make members of the public aware of the potential for side effects to their medicines and inform them of what to do in such an event.

The MHRA's Defective Medicine Report Centre also evaluates reports of defective or ineffective medicines and will take action to recall such products.

The MHRA has comprehensive systems in place to enable healthcare professionals, manufacturers and the public to report safety issues relating to medical devices. Reports can be made in writing, by telephone or electronically via the MHRA website. The online reporting system for healthcare professionals, patients and members of the public was launched in 2001.

In 2007 MHRA published a leaflet encouraging members of the public to report faulty medical equipment. These leaflets have been widely circulated in general practitioner surgeries and pharmacies.

The MHRA issues guidance to all national health service trusts at the beginning of each year, reminding them of their obligation to report safety issues relating to medical devices and NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England have designated medical device liaison officers to encourage and train staff and users to report adverse incidents.

The MHRA has recently upgraded the website to improve systems for manufacturer reporting. The Manufacturers Online Reporting Environment (MORE) was launched by the agency in October 2003 and an improved version was launched in February 2008. It is a simple tool provided by the agency for medical device manufacturers and their authorised representatives to report medical device adverse incidents online.

In 2005 the MHRA was designated as the UK Competent Authority for the Blood Safety and Quality Directives. In November 2005 MHRA launched Serious Adverse Blood Reactions and Events, the online reporting system for Blood Establishments and Blood Banks to report all serious adverse blood reactions and events occurring in the UK.

Mentally Ill: Medical Records

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2103-4W, on the mentally ill: medical records, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that when an independent mental health advocate is given access to a patient's electronic records they are able to view only the information relevant to the patient's detention, treatment or aftercare. [193292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Local record holders will decide what information to release to the independent mental health advocate, either by allowing them to view relevant information and/or giving them a copy of relevant information.

Independent mental health advocates will not be given direct access to a patient's medical records through the NHS Care Record Service. However, a competent patient may choose to allow an independent mental health advocate access to their Summary Care Record once these become available through the patient's Healthspace account.

NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the liabilities of each primary care trust are under contracts for the provision of projects funded through local improvement finance trusts; and what recent estimate he has made of the occupancy rates of healthcare facilities provided through local improvement finance trusts. [193437]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. As local improvement finance trusts (LIFT) schemes are developed, it is the responsibility for each primary care trust involved to ensure they can manage the resulting liabilities and service occupancy.

All LIFT schemes are underpinned by a strategic service development plan and a business case approval process. These require the primary care trust to demonstrate to their board, and if necessary their strategic health authority, the service and strategic need for the buildings and the affordability of the resulting liabilities.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what elements of the Lorenzo software package are expected to be delivered to trusts after July 2010; [192708]

(2) in how many stages it is expected that the Lorenzo clinical software package will be delivered for use as part of the National Health Service Programme for IT; what the expected date for delivery of each stage is; and what functionality is expected at each stage; [192709]

(3) how many *(a)* trusts and *(b)* other users are planned for each of the stages of delivery of the Lorenzo software package under the Penfield scheme by (i) July 2008, (ii) January 2009, (iii) July 2009, (iv) January 2010 and (v) July 2010; [192710]

(4) when it is expected the *(a)* the first NHS trust and *(b)* the first 10 trusts will have deployed elements of the Lorenzo software package under the Penfield scheme; [192711]

(5) by what date it is expected that three-quarters of NHS trusts in *(a)* the North West region, *(b)* the North East region and *(c)* the Eastern region will have had their patient administration systems and clinical systems replaced by the Lorenzo clinical software package under the Penfield scheme. [192712]

Mr. Bradshaw: The software underpinning the Lorenzo regional care solution for the North, Midlands and East (NME) programme for information technology (IT) area—previously comprising the North West/West Midlands, North East and Eastern national programme for IT regions—is currently scheduled to be delivered in four stages, or 'releases', as follows:

release 1: from June 2008;

release 2: from November 2008;

release 3: from July 2009; and

release 4: from March 2010.

The software for release 1 will initially be made available to three 'early adopter' sites. Following a period of live running within these sites, the release will be rolled out progressively across NME trusts. A similar approach is envisaged for subsequent releases. This staged approach is consistent with best practice and the recommendation from the Health Select Committee.

Functionality for release 1, which will be deployed over legacy patient administration systems (PAS), will enable the ordering of tests and reporting of results for pathology and radiology, supported through interfaces to legacy departmental systems. This functionality will also support ordering of a range of other patient-based services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and nursing interventions. The release will facilitate the building of a wide range of clinical documentation that will begin to replace the paper-based records, or the multiple clinical applications, which are currently used throughout the national health service.

Release 2 will replace legacy PAS systems by supporting an additional range of key functions both within and across NHS organisations. The release will include referral management, access planning and waiting lists, complex scheduling, out-patient in-patient and day-care case load management, care planning, case note tracking and contract management functionality. Functionality will also be available for those trusts that need to record Mental Health Act administration details and undertake mental health reviews and tribunals.

This release also aims to include the ability to record prescriptions and medications issued to patients on discharge using a formulary-based catalogue which identifies interactions that could arise due to the combination of drugs being prescribed, and other checking functionality to reduce clinical errors. In addition, emergency care functionality should be supported for those organisations looking to replace their current departmental systems.

Release 3 will build on the functionality delivered in release 2 by providing full in-patient prescribing and medication administration functionality, and maternity and theatre management functionality intended to replace legacy systems. The release will, in addition, provide the capability to schedule multiple resources such as people, rooms and equipment, and also deliver enhanced bed management capability.

Release 4 aims to provide functionality to support general practitioner practices, health screening, integrated care pathways, commissioning, theatre tray management and stock management. It will also provide the ability to link to remote devices to facilitate telemetry, and for working when disconnected from a network.

At present, development plans extend to July 2010. New requirements after July 2010 will need to be specified and supported by an appropriate business case and approval.

It is not possible to provide the details requested of the future number, location and sequencing of longer-term deployments. This is because meeting the needs and priorities of individual trusts which are maintaining normal business operations requires flexibility in the deployment planning and inevitably means that plans will always be subject to potential change. Detailed implementation planning became the responsibility of individual trusts and the chief executives of strategic health authorities from April 2007.

Nutrition: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of treating a patient for a disorder of nutrition as an *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient in each year since 2004-05. [189473]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average cost of treating a patient for a disorder of nutrition as an in-patient in each year since 2004-05 is provided in the following table. The information is not available in the format requested for out-patients.

Average cost of treating an inpatient[1] for a disorder of nutrition from reference costs

£

	Total cost	Actual FCEs[2]	Average unit cost
2004-05[3]	10,220,000	6,920	1,480
2005-06[3]	9,918,000	6,770	1,470
2006-07[4,5]	10,713,000	8,990	1,190

[1] Inpatient episodes include elective, non-elective and day cases.

[2] FCE is finished consultant episode.

[3] Data for 2004-05 and 2005-06 were collected based on Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) version 3.5.

[4] Data for 2006-07 were collected based on HRG version 4.

[5] The figures above show a decrease in the average unit cost in 2006-07 compared to previous years. This is due to an increase in the number of recorded day cases in 2006-07, resulting in a lower average cost.

Palliative Care

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data is used by commissioners to determine accurately the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in *(a)* Boston and Skegness, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* England. [193317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Lincolnshire Teaching PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient. The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Chorley. [192426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Central Lancashire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the North West SHA.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners in Chorley to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care. [192427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Central Lancashire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Eastbourne. [192020]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the South East Coast SHA.

Palliative Care: Lancashire

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist, palliative care and neurological care in South Ribble; and whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in South Ribble. [192811]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Central Lancashire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been implemented in Norwich North. [191923]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Norfolk PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the East of England SHA.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the level of need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Norwich North. [191924]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Norfolk PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Peterborough. [192129]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Peterborough PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the East of England SHA.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Peterborough. [192130]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Peterborough PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Standards

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in *(a)* Boston and Skegness, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* England. [193316]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Lincolnshire Teaching PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the East Midlands SHA.

Polyclinics

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pilot polyclinics have been established; and on how many he has received reports of their effectiveness. [193590]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission and determine the clinical design of national health service services based on local health needs.

The term polyclinic can be used to define a range of possible health service models characterised by the co-location and integration of different services, including those traditionally provided in a hospital out-patient setting and diagnostic services. The evidence available from these types of service models is that they can prevent out-patient appointments and reduce hospital admissions. However, their effectiveness will depend on a range of local factors, including the local design of the services in question.

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise public awareness of prostate cancer. [192214]

Ann Keen: A pilot public awareness programme on the prostate, set in a primary care trust population, was completed in autumn 2006 and its impact on the local population and the effect it has had on local national health service services has been evaluated. A report based on the results of the pilot and the evaluation, including clear next steps, will be discussed shortly by the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group. The pilot was jointly funded by the Department and signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action. The Department provided £100,000 towards the pilot.

The Department has provided funding through the Section 64 scheme for the following organisations to increase public awareness of prostate cancer:

> in 2004 we provided 30,000 to the Men's Health Forum to help fund their publication, the Men and Cancer Manual;
>
> we have provided 135,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to increase available information about prostate cancer; and
>
> we are providing 105,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to improve awareness of the risks and symptoms of prostate cancer in African and Afro-Caribbean men in Britain.

In addition, the Cancer Reform Strategy set out that we will establish a new National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. Led by the National Cancer Director, this initiative will bring together the national health service, representatives of local authorities, the Department, the National Cancer Research Institute and the research community, cancer charities and patients to coordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation.

Regional European Offices: Health

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each of the regional health Brussels offices in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184645]

Dawn Primarolo: Decisions to fund and prioritise health in regional offices in Brussels are the responsibility of regional assemblies and local authorities, not the Department of Health.

Smoking: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on smoking cessation services in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [192362]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available centrally by primary care trust.

Information on expenditure on national health service stop smoking services by strategic health authority (SHA) is available in April 2006 to March 2007 and April 2005 to March 2006 from the publications shown as follows. These publications are available in the Library:

'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006' (Annual statistical bulletin) Table 5.7, page 54, which was published on September 28, 2006.

'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007' (Annual statistical bulletin) Table 3.9, page 39, which was published on August 17, 2007.

For earlier years the figures at SHA level have not been published previously. SHA level expenditure on NHS stop smoking services for two years April 2004 to March 2005 and April 2003 to March 2004 are shown in the following table.

The figures for April 2002 to March 2003 are not available.

Table 1: Total expenditure[1] for NHS Stop Smoking Services by Government Office Region and Strategic Health Authority, 2003-04 and 2004-05, England

	Total expenditure (£000)	
	2003-04	*2004-05*
England	36,201	47,069
North East Government Office Region	2,297	2,895
County Durham and Tees Valley	908	1,269
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,389	1,626
North West Government Office Region	*5,597*	*7,135*
Cheshire and Merseyside	1,816	2,523
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,446	1,713
Greater Manchester	2,335	2,899
Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region	3,744	4,702
North and East Yorkshire, Northern Lincolnshire	1,072	1,316
South Yorkshire	1,295	2,006
West Yorkshire	1,377	1,380
East Midlands Government Office Region	3,334	4,278
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,013	1,444
Trent	2,321	2,834
West Midlands Government Office Region	4,684	6,173
Birmingham and The Black Country	2,220	3,073
Shropshire and Staffordshire	1,277	1,581
West Midlands South	1,187	1,519
East of England Government Office Region	2,474	3,717
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	725	934
Essex	841	1,375
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	908	1,408
London Government Office Region	5,942	8,095
North Central London	1,285	1,827
North East London	1,468	1,614
North West London	1,336	1,974
South East London	1,200	1,601
South West London	654	1,078
South East Government Office Region	4,544	5,767
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	847	1,275
Kent and Medway	795	1,405
Surrey and Sussex	1,594	1,477
Thames Valley	1,308	1,611
South West Government Office Region	3,586	4,308
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	1,496	1,745
Dorset and Somerset	922	1,086
South West Peninsula	1,167	1,477

Table 1: Total expenditure[1] for NHS Stop Smoking Services by Government Office Region and Strategic Health Authority, 2003-04 and 2004-05, England

[1] Total expenditure excludes NRT and bupropion (Zyban) on prescription

Source:

Lifestyle Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

Wheelchairs: Safety

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the safety of NHS wheelchairs. [192862]

Dawn Primarolo: Since June 1998, new wheelchairs which are classed as medical devices and placed on the market must carry the CE mark indicating conformity with the Medical Device Regulations.

Before applying the CE mark the manufacturer must ensure that all risks are removed or minimised and any residual risks are acceptable when weighed against the benefit to the user. The manufacturer must inform users of the residual risks by means of labelling on the device and/or warnings contained in the user information material.

Users, carers, healthcare professionals and others are encouraged to report any safety related problems to Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) via the MHRA electronic reporting system on their website or by verbal or written contact. This was reinforced in January 2008 with the issue of a new Medical Device Alert aimed specifically at raising the awareness of the need to report incidents involving any type of medical device. MHRA considers all reports received based on the level of risk and carries out investigations accordingly. Where appropriate the MHRA also works with or refers cases to other regulatory bodies in the United Kingdom such as trading standards and also liaises as necessary with other UK Government Departments and Competent Authorities within Europe and also with the United States, Canada, and Australia.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carers

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to business of carers leaving the workforce in each of the last five years. [185995]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* BERR does not calculate the cost to business of particular groups leaving the workforce.

Certification Quality Marks: Fraud

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government have taken to counter fraudulent use of CE marking. [192914]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* This is a matter for the relevant enforcement authorities; however, the United Kingdom is playing an active part in the current negotiations for new European measures that will, among other provisions, strengthen the protection for CE marking.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [189789]

Mr. Thomas: We do not hold information centrally for those members of staff that have worked from home in the last 12 months. This information could be made available only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by his Department. [189072]

Mr. Thomas: There are no staff under 18 years employed by this Department.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192981]

Mr. Thomas: My Department does not own any residential properties.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191274]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7297/7297.pdf

For the then Department of Trade and Industry, 23 have been listed.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was created on 28 June 2007. Departments including BERR are in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007.

From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

Departmental Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department and its predecessor received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190282]

Mr. Thomas: The number of named days questions received by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is shown as follows:

	Number which received a holding reply	*Number which received a substantive reply*
2001-02	835	544
2002-03	480	255
2003-04	452	245
2004-05	199	87
2005-06	652	358
2006-07	390	232
2007 to date	198	92

For the period in question 35 per cent. of named days received a substantive reply.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189811]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2235W, to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies).

Electrical Cables

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria his Department applies in deciding whether electricity transmission lines should be buried underground. [192598]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* Undergrounding lines is significantly more expensive than overgrounding them particularly at higher voltages. The Department therefore looks to see whether there are particular circumstances which justify undergrounding a proposed line or stretches of a proposed line. There are no set criteria laid down.

Foreign Investment in UK: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Israeli businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the United Kingdom and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [189015]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) team in the British embassy in Tel Aviv includes two officials who focus primarily on encouraging Israeli investment in the UK, and on encouraging collaboration between British and Israeli firms in areas such as research and development (R and D). Although there is no dedicated annual budget for this work, the UKTI team in Tel Aviv has access to centrally-held funds to support regular programme activity in support of these aims. Recent examples include a seminar on listing on the London Stock Exchange, held in Tel Aviv in November 2007; a seminar on inward investment in stem cell R and D, held in Tel Aviv in December 2007; an inward mission to the UK in the healthcare sector, in December 2007; and the publication of a newsletter to coincide with the Lord Mayor's visit to Israel, from 21 to 24 January 2008, highlighting the UK's strengths as a business partner.

Israel-Britain Business Council: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was allocated by his Department to the Israel-Britain Business Council in each year since the Council's establishment; whether there are restrictions on the use of these funds; and if he will make a statement. [189037]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) allocates £25,000 annually for the activities of the Israel-Britain Business Council (IBBC). This funding supports UKTI's efforts to increase trade and investment with Israel. UKTI officials work closely with both the Director of the IBBC and other UK members, to try to ensure a good fit between the activities of the Business Council and UKTI's strategic priorities for business with Israel including financial services, health care and high technology sectors.

Minimum Wage: Disabled

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact of the minimum wage on employment among people with disabilities. [186558]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Government ask the Low Pay Commission to review the impact of the national minimum wage on different groups of workers, including people with disabilities.

The Low Pay Commission's most recent assessment is included in their 2007 report, available in the Libraries of both Houses or from the Commission's website at:

ww.lowpay.gov.uk

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Animal Welfare

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of his Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies employ an animal welfare specialist. [193109]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has responsibility for the following advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs):

Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies
Fuel Poverty Advisory Group
Industrial Development Advisory Board
Low Pay Commission
Regional Industrial Development Boards
Renewables Advisory Board
UK National Authority Advisory Group
Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board.

Information on specialists in these organisations is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

Personal Loans: Cars

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will *(a)* investigate the activities of companies offering loans secured against the logbooks and related documents associated with car ownership and *(b)* assess the impact of such practices on consumers on low incomes and with poor credit ratings. [193214]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading has received complaints about businesses offering loans of this kind which it is currently considering. A common feature of the complaints received is that it is alleged that the full consequences of defaulting on such loans has not been explained to the consumers. The OFT is responsible for ensuring that consumer credit licences are only held by businesses that are fit to do so. Any evidence that a business has engaged in unfair business practices would be relevant to a consideration of its fitness to hold such a licence.

Post Offices: Closures

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the compatibility of the post offices closure programme with the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [192328]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to a national network of post offices, has set access criteria to ensure reasonable access to post office services for all communities and is providing a network subsidy payment of up to £150 million a year to support the non-commercial part of the network. Under the access criteria, Post Office Ltd. is required to ensure that nationally, 99 per cent. of the UK population is within three miles of their nearest post office outlet and 90 per cent. within one mile.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the location was of each post office which has closed in Greater London since 1997. [193350]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much he estimates will be saved by the Post Office through the planned closures of post offices; how much will be saved on average per closure; and if he will make a statement. [193410]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Reorganisation

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons were for not including environmental impact as a factor to be taken into account in the Post Office Network Change programme by Post Office Ltd. [192871]

Mr. McFadden: As stated in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, closures will principally affect a combination of branches in areas of over-provision and those that are least used. Post Office Ltd. will be tasked with taking a strategic overview of service provision to ensure that in areas of over-provision, people should be able to find an alternative branch nearby and the vast majority will still be within walking distance of their nearest office. With the least used, the number of people affected will, by the nature of the offices, be low. The introduction of new access criteria will minimise the impact by ensuring that the network remains readily accessible across the UK—with far greater coverage than any other retailer, financial service provider or public service provider.

The 21 area plans published by Post Office Ltd. to date indicate that on average 99 per cent. of customers will see no change to the post office branch they currently use or will be within one mile of an alternative branch.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will change Government access criteria for the Network Change programme to require Post Office Ltd. to take environmental impacts into specific consideration. [192872]

Mr. McFadden: The access criteria set a minimum density of coverage to maintain a national network of post offices and reasonable access to post office services across the country by requiring that nationally, 99 per cent. of the UK population is within three miles of their nearest post office outlet and 90 per cent. within one mile.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the basis is for statements by the Post Office that Government access criteria do not require Post Office Ltd. to take environmental impacts into specific consideration as part of their Network Change programme. [192873]

Mr. McFadden: In developing proposals for post office closures and new outreach sites under its Network Change programme, Post Office Ltd. is require to comply with the access criteria set by Government, to take account of geographical factors, including distance to alternative outlets, and to consider availability of public transport, local demographics and the impact on local economies. Experience with the programme to date shows that, on average, for 90 per cent. of customers there is no change to the post office branch they currently use. And on average 99 per cent. will either see no change or be within one mile of an alternative branch.

Post Offices: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of residents in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness he estimates will have access by road to a post office within three miles following the implementation of the post office restructuring programme; and if he will make a statement. [192895]

Mr. McFadden: The information is not available in the form requested. However, Post Office Ltd.'s decision booklet for the East Yorkshire with Bassetlaw and North Lincolnshire area plan states that 99 per cent. of the area will see no change in the post office they currently use or will remain within one mile by road of an alternative branch.

Traffic Congestion: East of England

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the East of England Development Agency has to employ consultants to establish the cost of traffic congestion in the East of England; what the consultants' brief will be; when he expects the consultants to complete their task; and what budget has been provided. [193055]

Mr. McFadden: The East of England Development Agency has commissioned Steer Davies Gleave to undertake a study to establish the impact of transport constraints in the East of England (including congestion) on the regional and national economy.

The brief comprises three key components:

(a) The quantification of the economic impacts caused by transport constraints in the East of England

(b) An identification of particular areas in the region in which transport constraints are having significant economic impacts

(c) A quantification of the economic benefits that could be derived from addressing-transport constraints.

The study is being undertaken in consultation with local, regional and national partners, including public sector and business representatives.

The study will be complete by July 2008, and the budget for the study is £130,000.

University Partnerships Limited: Accountancy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the most recent accounts were *(a)* due and *(b)* filed at Companies House for University Partnerships Limited. [192985]

Mr. Thomas: There is no company with the name of University Partnerships Limited registered with Companies House.

Wines: Sales

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether lower alcohol wines can be imported from the USA and sold in the UK under bilateral agreements; and if he will make a statement. [186855]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The minimum permitted alcohol content for wine produced and marketed in the EU is laid down in the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for Wine (Council Regulation (EEC) 1493/99).

The requirements vary according to the type of wine and the region of production. Wines imported into the EU are, in general, subject to the same requirements. However, a number of countries, including the USA, have completed bilateral agreements.

These provide for lower alcohol wine produced in conformity with national standards to be imported and marketed in the EU.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prevalence of the kidnapping of foreign workers in Afghanistan; what impact this has on diplomatic and Department for International Development activities in that country; and if he will make a statement. [193369]

Meg Munn: Kidnapping is considered a high threat throughout Afghanistan, with a number of kidnappings in the country in the past 12 months.

Our diplomatic and development staff are protected as much as possible by robust security measures. All threats, including that of kidnap, are constantly reviewed to ensure our staff have appropriate levels of protection. We try to strike a balance that allows staff to carry out useful work in Afghanistan, while making reasonable provision against the risk of kidnap and other security threats.

Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens *(a)* visited and *(b)* emigrated to Bermuda in each year since 2000, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. [192529]

Meg Munn: The Government of Bermuda have provided the following information showing arrivals by British citizens with UK passports who indicated that they were visitors. The data available do not provide a breakdown by age or sex, nor do they indicate the numbers of those choosing to emigrate to Bermuda.

	Number of arrivals
2000	35,095
2001	28,996
2002	30,443
2003	26,721
2004	25,369
2005	27,580
2006	34,123
2007	39,240

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187538]

Meg Munn: Senior staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) claimed £204,426.17 in reimbursable expenses during the period 31 January 2007 to 1 February 2008.

These claims cover travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of official business by senior staff based in the United Kingdom within the conditions laid down in Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code. Expenditure on expenses incurred by senior staff serving overseas is reimbursed locally and not recorded centrally.

Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the alleged detention of members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt; what assessment his Department has made of the effect that this may have on the forthcoming municipal elections in Egypt; what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Cairo have had with the Government of Egypt on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [192652]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the recent arrests of Muslim Brotherhood members. While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised the issue, UK officials raised the Government's concerns about the arrests with the Egyptian embassy on 27 February 2008. We regularly raise human rights issues with the Egyptian Government through officials in London and Cairo. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) raised a number of the Government's human rights concerns directly with the visiting Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament on 21 January 2008. He also looks forward to these issues being discussed at the forthcoming EU-Egypt political sub-committee established under the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

We encourage the Egyptian authorities to ensure that the forthcoming municipal elections are conducted freely, fairly and transparently.

Gaza: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Egyptian Government on the smuggling of bomb and rocket-making equipment into Gaza. [192358]

Meg Munn: Arms smuggling into Gaza remains a great concern. The Quadrilateral Committee, which consists of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the US, has been working closely to address the issue of smuggling and border control. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met his Egyptian counterpart, Aboul Gheit, in November 2007 and spoke to him by phone on 19 February to discuss the situation in Gaza.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Egyptian Government on the use of tunnels to smuggle equipment and personnel into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [192359]

Meg Munn: Arms smuggling into Gaza remains a great concern. The Quadrilateral Committee, which consists of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the US, has been working closely to address the issue of smuggling and border control. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to his Egyptian counterpart, Aboul Gheit, on 19 February 2008 to discuss the situation in Gaza.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his Written Ministerial Statement of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 105WS, on Heathrow and Gatwick (VIP facilities), what the public subsidy is expected to be in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [192395]

Meg Munn: Final accounts for 2007-08 are not yet available. We anticipate expenditure of £2.4 million on the VIP suites at London Heathrow and the one facility at London Gatwick. We expect to recover about £1.25 million from diplomatic missions for their private use of these facilities.

On 31 March 2008, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's financial support and operational role in the terminal suites at Heathrow and Gatwick will end. From 1 April BAA will be responsible for covering 100 per cent. of the operating costs and invoicing all customers directly, including diplomatic missions and the FCO. For financial year 2008-09, we have estimated we will need £50,000 to meet the suite costs of that VIPs whom we officially invite to the UK.

The FCO will maintain operational control and financial interest in the royal suite at Heathrow. To cover these costs we have a budget of £0.54 million, of which we expect to recover at least 90 per cent. as full economic recovery charges for private use of this facility by diplomatic missions.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Serbia's co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the detection and arrest of fugitive indictees. [191984]

David Miliband: The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) made an assessment in June 2007 which highlighted some improvement in the level of co-operation from Serbia, such as the establishment of a National Security Council; better access to documents requested by the Prosecutor's office; and co-ordinated action resulting in the arrests of General Tolimir and Vlastimir Dordevic in 2007. Since then, the Serbian government has also offered a €1 million reward for information leading to the capture of Ratko Mladic.

However, the ICTY Chief Prosecutor's latest assessment, delivered in December 2007, was that Serbia had failed to build on this initial progress and was not fully co-operating with the Tribunal. We agree that sustained improvements in co-operation from the Serbian authorities, together with an increased political commitment, are needed in order to locate the remaining fugitive indictees, particularly Mladic and Karadzic. The Government continue to deliver this message to the Serbian Government at every opportunity.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of recent ethnic conflict in Kenya on *(a)* institutions, *(b)* social cohesion and *(c)* infrastructure in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [192638]

Meg Munn: The post-election crisis has had an adverse impact on the economy, social cohesion and public perception of certain institutions in Kenya. We support the recently signed National Accord and on-going reconciliation initiatives. In anticipation of a lasting political settlement that is seen to meet the will of the Kenyan people, donors have begun work on a needs assessment study to rebuild the country. So far, the Government have provided £2.5 million in humanitarian assistance.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided to help resolve the situation in Kenya; what his most recent assessment of the political situation in Kenya is; and if he will make a statement. [192651]

Meg Munn: The UK, together with Kenya's other international partners, has strongly supported the mediation mission led by Kofi Annan to broker a power-sharing agreement between President Kibaki and Raila Odinga. We welcome the signing of an agreement by the two sides on 28 February. We consider that it provides a strong foundation on which to bring Kenya back to the path of prosperity, democracy and stability. The imperative is for Kenya's leaders to implement the agreement in full and to build up a sense of national reconciliation. We look forward to working with the new coalition Government, once it has been formed.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take steps at the United Nations in response to the rejection by the President of the Palestinian Authority of the description of Israel as a Jewish state; and if he will make a statement. [192471]

Meg Munn: The UK has no plans to respond at the UN to the Palestinian President's recent comments on the description of Israel as a Jewish state. The UK is committed to a two-state solution.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take steps at the United Nations in response to the recent comments by the President of the Palestinian Authority on the recognition by Hamas of the state of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [192472]

Meg Munn: The UK has no plans to respond at the UN. Our policy towards Hamas has not changed. We do not have contact with Hamas. The key to making progress is to swiftly resume negotiations. The policy of the Quartet on talks with Hamas is based on its three principles: recognition of Israel, acceptance of previous agreements and renunciation of violence. These principles remain the fundamental conditions for a viable peace process. We hope that Hamas will accept the principles and grasp the opportunity for dialogue and progress. However, a political dialogue is impossible as long as one party is dedicated to violence and the destruction of the other.

Nepal: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Kathmandu have had with (i) the Government and (ii) the royal family of Nepal on (A) the December 2007 vote to abolish the monarchy, (B) possible UK assistance for the elections in April 2008 and (C) the position of the Madhesi ethnic group; and if he will make a statement. [192649]

Meg Munn: The question of the future of the monarchy in Nepal is one which can only be decided by the people of Nepal themselves. The UK has had no discussions with the Government of Nepal on the December 2007 agreement to determine the process for declaring Nepal a republic. Furthermore, the UK has had no discussions with the Nepalese royal family on any of the issues identified by the hon. Member in his question.

The UK has supported the electoral process, for instance through co-funding the Election Commission and supporting education programmes aimed at raising awareness of a Constituent Assembly. We have maintained a comprehensive dialogue with the Government of Nepal and all political parties. I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the Minister for the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann), on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2358W.

The question of Madhesi rights and engagement in the political process has moved sharply up the agenda through the last year following significant disturbances and violent protests across the Terai region. The UK has had a wide-ranging dialogue with the Government of Nepal and officials representing Madhesi parties. I refer the hon. Member to the answer that my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Glenrothes (Mr. MacDougall) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2358-9W.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* security situation and *(b)* political stability of Nepal following the 2006 peace accord; and if he will make a statement. [192653]

Meg Munn: Notwithstanding the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in November 2006, Nepal has continued to see violence, much of which stems from intimidation, abductions and extortion, carried out by groups affiliated to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN(M)). In recent months, widespread violence has resulted in over 170 deaths in the Terai, the southern plains bordering India. The UK has urged the Government of Nepal and all political parties to work towards improving public security. In addition, we have offered assistance on policing and judicial reform issues and encouraged greater recognition of the rule of law.

The CPA cleared the way for a political settlement which saw the formation of an interim Parliament and an interim Government which included Ministers from CPN(M). Although there has been friction, not least when CPN(M) Ministers left Government briefly in 2007, and more recently during negotiations between the Government of Nepal and groups representing the Madhes, the UK hopes elections to a Constituent Assembly will be able to take place on 10 April 2008.

Serbia: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations from Human Rights Watch on the reported threats and harassment against Ms Natasa Kandic, the head of the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade, and other human rights activists in Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [191977]

David Miliband: We have received no representations from Human Rights Watch.

We are following closely and with concern the threats and harassment experienced by the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade and other non-governmental organisations.

On 29 February the EU made formal representations to the Serbian Government in Belgrade, in which it expressed concern about the pressure currently exerted on some of the Serbian media and non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to his Serbian counterpart on observing the safety and human rights of Ms Natasa Kandic, the head of the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade, and other human rights activists in Serbia. [191978]

David Miliband: We deplore threats made against individuals and non-governmental organisations in Serbia and the attack on 21 February against the premises of the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade, which Ms Kandic heads.

On 29 February the EU made formal representations to the Serbian Government in Belgrade, in which it expressed concern about the pressure currently exerted on some of the Serbian media and non-governmental organisations.

South America: Foreign Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in (i) Caracas, (ii) Bogota and (iii) Quito have had with (A) the government of and (B) others in (1) Venezuela, (2) Colombia and (3) Ecuador on (x) the killing of Raul Reyes and (y) relations between the three countries; and if he will make a statement; [192657]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Paris have had with the French Government on relations between Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia; and if he will make a statement; [192659]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representative staff have had with the European Commission on the EU response to relations between Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador; and if he will make a statement; [192662]

(4) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Washington D.C. have had with the US Government on relations between Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia; and if he will make a statement; [192663]

(5) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Brasilia have had with the Government of Brazil on relations between Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia; whether assistance was offered to Brazil and its South American partners to assist in resolving the regional situation; and if he will make a statement. [192664]

Meg Munn: We are holding meetings with representatives of the three Governments concerned. We are urging all parties to show restraint and to follow a diplomatic process to ease current tensions. We fully supported the European Union declaration of 5 March, which commented

> "The European Union is concerned about the growing tension and the deployment of armed forces between Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia. It urges all parties involved to show restraint and to avoid any further escalation of the current situation.
>
> The European Union encourages all countries involved to seek, through dialogue, a political solution."

We are monitoring events closely and are discussing the situation with partners in the European Union, the European Commission, the US and Latin America, including Brazil. We have not discussed specific offers of assistance to Brazil and its South American partners in resolving tensions.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Khartoum have had with the Government of Sudan on Sudanese army operations in Darfur since the beginning of 2008; what assessment his Department has made of such operations; and if he will make a statement. [192661]

Meg Munn: We have had extensive contacts with the Government of Sudan to discuss the situation in Darfur, including the issue of fighting in West Darfur between Government and rebel forces. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development, in a joint statement of 27 February, noted the dangerous wider consequences of such conflict and called for an immediate end to fighting. We have delivered the same message, and emphasised the Government of Sudan's responsibility to protect civilians, in other contacts including by my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, during his visit to Sudan on 28 to 31 January, in subsequent talks in Khartoum through our ambassador, and with EU partners at the 18 February General Affairs and External Relations Council. We continue to urge all parties including rebel movements to commit themselves to a ceasefire and engage fully in a political process aimed at establishing a lasting peace in Darfur.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Southern Sudan's President on fighting in Abyei Province. [193291]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister responsible for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed progress on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including instability in Abyei, with the President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, in Juba on 29 January, and subsequently with Sudanese leaders, including President Bashir, in Khartoum and Addis Ababa later that week. We continue to raise these issues in contacts with northern and southern Sudanese leaders. Sir Derek Plumbly will pursue all aspects of CPA implementation in his role as Chair of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission for the CPA.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of UN claims that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is blocking humanitarian access to the Jabel Moun area of Darfur; what reports his Department has received on possible negotiations between the JEM and the Government of Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [192660]

Meg Munn: While we understand humanitarian agencies are still unable to access the Jebel Moun area, we cannot confirm whether they are barred at the behest of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) or because of continuing fighting between JEM forces and the Sudanese armed forces. We are not aware of negotiations between JEM and the Government of Sudan but mediators from the African Union and the UN are talking to rebel groups in and outside Darfur, including JEM, to press them to end hostilities and agree on common platforms for negotiations with the Government of Sudan.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development, in a joint statement of 27 February, called on all parties to stop the violence; to allow immediate humanitarian access; to protect civilians; and to facilitate the deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the Darfur peace process takes into account the special wants and needs of women and girls, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [193290]

Meg Munn: The UK has given £1 million to the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, which consults civil society on the Darfur peace process including women's groups and non-governmental organisations supporting women's rights.

The UK has funded Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) to support women's peace initiatives in Darfur, Juba and Khartoum. FAS organised the African Women's Consultation on Darfur at the end of January, where about 100 women gathered to discuss the situation in Darfur and Sudan. An Interim Steering Committee will implement the new Action Plan for Peace. FAS is sponsoring an event during the Human Rights Council (3 to 28 March), and will be offering training on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and legal instruments supporting women's issues. FAS plans further consultation and training events in Darfur throughout the year.

The UK funds governance projects in Sudan which include training the police, judiciary and prison officers in issues related to gender-based violence, and support to local non-governmental organisations for workshops and seminars on peace-building initiatives, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and media campaigns against gender-based violence.

The UK also contributes 60 per cent. of the budget of the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund which supports women's rights projects in Sudan, including action on sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur and Southern Sudan and strengthening civil society organisations to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and promote women's leadership role in society.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to ensure that the UNAMID peacekeeping force in Darfur operates in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, with particular reference to its calls for *(a)* more women to be appointed to peacekeeping operations, *(b)* peacekeepers to be trained in gender issues and *(c)* women and girls to be provided with extra protection in war zones. [193230]

Meg Munn: The UN set a target that women constitute 40 per cent. of the police component of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The training conference in Accra in February reconfirmed that gender issues will be a significant part of the UNAMID pre-deployment training curriculum. UNAMID is already conducting firewood patrols that give protection to internally displaced persons gathering wood (mainly women).

In Sudan, our embassy in Khartoum has supported a number of conflict mitigation and peace-building initiatives, which have actively encouraged women to lead on reconciliation efforts in line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 of October 2000. The UK also funds a number of projects in Sudan training the police, judiciary and prison officers in issues related to gender-based violence.

The UK leads at the UN on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. We pushed for the most recent presidential statement on UNSCR 1325, of October 2007, to call for increased reporting on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls. The UK is co-sponsoring a Wilton Park conference for Chief-of-Staff-level military personnel from troop-contributing countries to discuss practical tactics that the military can employ to protect women from violence.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of peace between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); and what reports he has received of the likely request of the LRA leadership for immunity from prosecutions for war crimes. [193244]

Meg Munn: We welcome the progress made by the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and are encouraged by reports that the two sides will sign a final peace agreement by the end of the month. We note that in the recent peace agreement, the LRA leadership has asked the Government of Uganda to request a deferral of the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants and establish national mechanisms to try those alleged to have committed crimes as an alternative to the ICC. We believe that justice is an essential part of a sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his *(a)* EU and *(b)* African counterparts on the need for international pressure on Zimbabwe to observe international standards in the 29 March elections in that country; and what action has been agreed. [192911]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* We are very concerned that the forthcoming Zimbabwean elections will not be conducted in free and fair circumstances. The Minister for Europe, my hon Friend the Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr. Murphy), discussed the importance of Zimbabwean elections meeting international standards with his EU counterparts on 10 March 2008 at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council. Our high commissions and embassies in the region are in regular contact with members of the Southern African Development Community. They are urging them to ensure that the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe meet international standards, including the Southern African Development Community guidelines and principles on elections.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Budgetary Support

6. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's provision of direct budgetary support in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [193267]

Mr. Thomas: Independent evaluations of the impact of budget support have demonstrated that, in the right circumstances, budget support has

strengthened countries' public financial management systems;

improved the efficiency of their public expenditure; and

increased the services provided by partner governments, particularly in health and education.

HIV/AIDS

7. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in developing countries. [193268]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are making good progress in taking forward the strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in developing countries. In particular, we have narrowed the funding gap, strengthened political leadership, pushed for closer co-ordination between aid agencies, and invested in new medicines and preventative technologies.

Doha

8. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's objectives are for the Doha development round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [193269]

Mr. Thomas: The Government remain committed to working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other World Trade Organisation members to achieve an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Development Agenda trade talks before the end of 2008.

14. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made in the Doha development round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [193275]

Mr. Thomas: World Trade Organisation members are currently engaged in discussions in Geneva following the issuing of revised negotiating texts in February. The Government remain committed to working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to achieve an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Development Agenda trade talks before the end of 2008.

Nigeria-linked Financial Crime

9. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides to the anti-corruption unit of the Metropolitan police to combat Nigeria-linked financial crime in the UK. [193270]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are providing £6 million of support over three years to the Metropolitan police and the City of London police to strengthen the UK's capacity to investigate and prosecute international corruption cases relating to Nigeria and other developing countries.

International Development Association

10. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK will contribute to the International Development Association 15 replenishment. [193271]

Mr. Thomas: The UK will provide the 15th replenishment of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA 15) with £2.134 billion over three years. IDA 15 runs from 1 July 2008 until 30 June 2011.

Poverty Reduction

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK aid in reducing poverty in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [193272]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are committed to ensuring that UK aid is used effectively to make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people. UK aid helps lift 3 million people permanently out of poverty every year. The recent OECD-DAC baseline survey also shows that DFID has either met or is on track to meet all the 2010 targets contained in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Humanitarian Aid: Gaza

12. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the provision of humanitarian aid in Gaza. [193273]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Aid agencies are working to address the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza. However, the priority is to reopen the crossings and ensure unrestricted humanitarian access, including the supply of medical equipment, fuel, food and electricity. I have allocated £2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which provides water, sanitation, food, medicines and shelter. This is in addition to our wider contribution to the Palestinians of £243 million over three years, linked to political progress.

Kenya

13. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the assistance needed by Kenya to deal with the aftermath of the post-election violence. [193274]

Gillian Merron: A consolidated assessment of assistance needed is being co-ordinated through the Donor Co-ordination Group, drawing on sector assessments from private sector groups and Government Ministries.

Key priorities already identified include humanitarian assistance for the internally displaced, enhancing food security by ensuring access to farm inputs to get fields planted for the long rains in April, and financial resources for the micro and small enterprise sector.

Malaria

15. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress is being made in reducing the prevalence of malaria in developing countries. [193276]

Gillian Merron: The UK is part of the international effort committed to reducing the impact of malaria.

The increasing availability of improved medicines (artemisinin-based) worldwide and the increasing provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets is helping to combat malaria. The combination of increased bednet use, indoor residual spraying and better access to drugs for treatment is helping to reduce the high levels of mortality—especially among children—in several countries.

Departmental Cost-Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191485]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the Annex pertaining to my Department in 'Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review' (Cm 7227).

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192382]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192061]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following sums on plants, live and artificial, between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007:

	£
2003	15,526.00
2004	49,590.00
2005	28,084.00
2006	25,353.00
2007	22,675.00

DFID has a variety of live and artificial trees and plants in the London and East Kilbride offices. It is not possible to identify the cost of pot plants only so the above figures in the table cover all the expenses associated with plants, including their procurement and maintenance.

Developing Countries

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken by his Department on development awareness and community engagement; and if he will make a statement. [193014]

Gillian Merron: Raising awareness of global poverty and enabling UK communities to get involved in development is a priority for the Department for International Development (DFID). There are an increasing number of relevant initiatives under way including,

1. Development Education—equipping the formal education sector to teach global issues in the classroom more effectively.
2. The DFID Global School Partnerships programme—linking schools in the UK with partners in developing countries.
3. Volunteering schemes—in particular to enable young people and people from Diaspora communities in the UK to volunteer overseas.
4. Outreach and events activity such as sponsorship of the 2007 World Scout Jamboree, the Greenbelt Festival and the Global Student Forum. DFID Ministers are also engaged in a programme of visits across the UK to raise awareness of development.
5. A Development Awareness Fund (DAF) which provides funding to more than 70 projects around the UK targeting different audiences.

NDPBs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies have an animal welfare specialist on them. [193108]

Mr. Malik: DFID has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which currently has no animal welfare specialist among its Commissioners.

Nepal: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation in Nepal following the 2006 peace accord; and if he will make a statement. [192648]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID), like other international donors, monitors the humanitarian situation in Nepal primarily through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA provides leadership to and co-ordination of the international humanitarian community, and works with DFID and other international bodies to monitor and respond to emerging and ongoing humanitarian crises.

In this role, OCHA has conducted continuous assessments of the humanitarian situation in Nepal following the 2006 peace accord. Details of the most recent national assessment can be found in the UN Common Appeal for Nepal 2008:

http://ochaonline.un.org/cap2005/webpage.asp?Page=1649

This appeal provides a framework for a co-ordinated international response to humanitarian issues in Nepal. The appeal focuses on issues of particular importance in the short term, including food security, health, displacement, disaster preparedness, and protection. DFID is currently examining the appeal document to assess which elements it might support, and will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation jointly with OCHA and other partners.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian impact of *(a)* the Madhesi movement for increased autonomy and *(b)* conflict between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and other rebel forces; what assistance his Department is providing to Nepal; and if he will make a statement. [192650]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID), like other international donors, monitors the humanitarian situation in Nepal primarily through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA provides leadership to and co-ordination of the international humanitarian community, and works with DFID and other international bodies to monitor and respond to emerging and ongoing humanitarian crises.

In this role, OCHA has conducted continuous assessments of the humanitarian impact of both the recent Madhesi movement for increased autonomy in the south of Nepal and of the 10 year conflict between the Government and Maoist forces. Details of these assessments can be found in the UN Common Appeal for Nepal 2008:

http://ochaonline.un.org/cap2005/webpage.asp?Paqe=1649

In the past financial year DFID has provided £53 million of support for Nepal, making it the largest bilateral donor to the country. This funding supports the implementation of the peace process (including the elections); support to improved governance, including in public financial management; provision of essential services like health and education, road building and other infrastructure, and support to improved livelihoods and greater economic opportunity for poor people.

JUSTICE

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192997]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice headquarters does not own any residential properties.

Driving Under Influence: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for drink driving in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in each year since 2000. [193592]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection held by my Department covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by main offence group (for instance, violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods) and police force area within England and Wales. Information on summary offences is non-notifiable and as a result not covered by the collection.

Available information held on prosecutions and findings of guilt for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2000 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available later this year.

The data provided cover drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established:

Prosecutions at magistrate courts and findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within Lancashire police force area, and England, 2000-05

Number of offences

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt
Lancashire police force	2,879	2,564	2,570	2,304	2,928	2,599	3,014	2,652	3,019	2,706	2,995	2,723
England	89,329	79,671	89,172	78,684	95,275	84,456	98,522	87,392	100,048	89,904	96,587	87,482

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken lo ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Poaching

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for poaching in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in each year since 2000. [193593]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection held by my Department covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, Summary offences concerning poaching are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of poaching in Lancashire and England are in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for poaching in Lancashire and England, 2000 to 2006

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt	Proceedings	Findings of guilt
Lancashire police force	23	20	11	8	16	14	9	7	29	22	21	1	1	2
England	298	220	225	186	319	242	207	140	299	233	455	370	75	48

Notes:

1 These data are on the principal offence basis.

2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

3 The statutes used are as follows:

Night Poaching Act 1823 s1, Night Poaching Act 1844 s1, Game Act 1831 s30-32, Poaching Preventions Act 1862 s2 and Deer Act 1991.

Source:

RDS OCJR Ministry of Justice

Prisoners Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentenced prisoners in England and Wales are on the *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced privilege level of the incentives and earned privileges scheme. [193228]

Mr. Straw: The recorded data for the incentives and earned privileges scheme (IEPS) does not differentiate between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners, and is recorded on a separate system. It shows a shortfall against the published population data and is only used to provide indicators for monitoring, at a national level, the operation of the system.

The data provided by this system are set out in the following table. The figures are for the average numbers on each level over a period of 10 months to January 2008.

	Number	*Percentage*
Basic level	1,271	1.5
Standard level	45,437	58.5
Enhanced level	31,077	40

Prisoners Release

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research to identify how many ex-prisoners of working age were in sustained work *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months after being released from prison in each year since 1992. [191968]

Mr. Straw: Research which has that purpose is already in hand.

The Ministry of Justice has commissioned three cohort studies to identify and assess offenders' needs and risks, and to identify what interventions they receive and how these interventions are associated with a range of outcomes, including employment. The studies concern prisoners, offenders serving community sentences and juveniles. The prison cohort study, "Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction" (SPCR) follows the progress of 4,000 newly sentenced prisoners during their sentence and when they return to the community. In addition to prisoners' self-reported employment and training after release, the study will have access to benefits and tax records held by the Department for Work and Pensions, which is a financial stakeholder in the study. The first results from this study, describing the presenting problems and needs of prisoners, are scheduled for publication in April 2008.

Also in April, the Ministry of Justice will be publishing results from an analysis of survey data from 4,898 sentenced prisoners nearing release which was combined with criminal history and reoffending information from the Police National Computer. The study assesses the links between prisoners' circumstances on release (in areas such as education, training, employment, accommodation and family ties), interventions attended in prisons, and reoffending one year after discharge.

I am happy to arrange for my right hon. Friend to discuss his proposals with the relevant officials in my Department.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of the prison population *(a)* attempted and *(b)* committed suicide in (i) English and (ii) Welsh prisons between 2000 and 2007; and if he will make a statement; [192876]

(2) how many young males *(a)* attempted and *(b)* committed suicide in each Welsh prison in each year between 2000 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [192877]

Maria Eagle: There is no definition of what constitutes an attempted suicide, as it is not possible to measure suicidal intent.

The available figures express the proportion as a rate of self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 prisoners for the period 2000-07. There are no female or high-security prisons in Wales, and many Welsh male prisoners are held in prisons in England.

Proportion as rate	*Average 2000-07*
SIDs[1] rate/100,000[2]: England	115.9
SIDs[1] rate/100,000[2]: Wales	110.9
Overall SIDs[1] rate/100,000	115.7

[1] The Prison Service/NOMS definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

[2] Based on an average of each years month end population figures.

There were four self-inflicted deaths among young males (under 21) in Welsh prisons between 2000 and 2007: two in 2001, one in 2002 and one in 2006. All occurred at Parc, which is the only young offender institution in Wales.

Prisons

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to use prison officer accommodation for providing additional prisoner accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [192971]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to use prison officer accommodation for providing additional prisoner accommodation.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what food allowances for inmates of contracted-out prisons are stipulated within the relevant contract; what these are for each prison; and how much was paid to privately run prisons for food for inmates in each of the last five years. [193001]

Maria Eagle: The nature of the PFI contracts means that we monitor price against service delivery to ensure compliance with the contract and assure value for money, but we do not measure a fixed level of cost for the provision of food for prisoners, and these data are not specifically reported or monitored as part of the contract.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures his Department is considering in order to provide additional prisoner accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [193016]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have committed resources to a major expansion of prison capacity. It is intended that we achieve an overall net capacity of just over 96,000 places by 2014. We have already created around 20,000 places since 1997.

Sentencing: Rape

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of rape in each police authority area were given *(a)* an immediate custodial sentence, *(b)* a community sentence, *(c)* a fine, *(d)* a conditional discharge and *(e)* an absolute discharge in each of the last five years. [191043]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons convicted of rape in all courts, and given *(a)* an immediate custodial sentence, *(b)* a community sentence, *(c)* a fine, *(d)* a conditional discharge and *(e)* an absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2002[1,2,3,4,5]

						2002
		Result				
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Avon and Somerset	12	0	0	0	1	11
Bedfordshire	5	0	0	0	0	5
Cambridgeshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Cheshire	9	0	0	0	0	9
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	11	0	0	0	0	11
Cumbria	4	0	0	0	0	4
Derbyshire	7	0	0	0	1	6
Devon and Cornwall	15	0	0	0	0	15
Dorset	6	0	0	0	0	6
Durham	4	0	0	0	0	4
Essex	5	0	0	0	0	5
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	0	0	2
Greater Manchester	32	0	0	0	0	32
Hampshire	21	0	0	0	0	21
Hertfordshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Humberside	9	0	0	0	0	9
Kent	16	0	0	0	0	16
Lancashire	14	0	0	0	0	14
Leicestershire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Lincolnshire	9	0	0	0	0	8
Merseyside	15	0	0	0	0	15
Metropolitan Police	96	1	0	1	2	90
Norfolk	8	0	0	0	0	8
North Yorkshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Northamptonshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Northumbria	22	0	0	0	0	22
Nottinghamshire	13	0	0	0	0	13
South Yorkshire	17	0	0	0	0	17
Staffordshire	11	0	0	0	0	11
Suffolk	7	0	0	0	0	7
Surrey	5	0	0	0	0	5
Sussex	11	0	0	0	0	11
Thames Valley	15	0	0	0	0	15
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	0	1
West Mercia	12	0	0	0	0	12
West Midlands	27	0	0	0	0	27
West Yorkshire	15	0	0	0	0	15
Wiltshire	9	0	0	0	0	9
Dyfed-Powys	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gwent	16	0	0	0	0	16

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2002[1,2,3,4,5]

						2002
				Result		
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
North Wales	5	0	0	0	0	5
South Wales	20	0	0	0	1	18
Total (England and Wales)	548	1	0	1	5	537

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced for an offence during a year does not always equal the number found guilty, as a defendant may be sentenced for an offence in a different year to the year they are found guilty of that offence.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2003[1,2,3,4,5]

						2003
				Result		
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Avon and Somerset	20	0	0	0	1	19
Bedfordshire	5	0	0	0	0	5
Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cheshire	10	0	0	0	0	10
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	9	0	0	0	0	9
Cumbria	8	0	0	0	0	8
Derbyshire	13	0	0	0	0	13
Devon and Cornwall	14	0	0	0	0	14
Dorset	3	0	0	0	0	3
Durham	1	0	0	0	0	1
Essex	6	0	0	0	0	6
Gloucestershire	7	0	0	0	0	7
Greater Manchester	31	0	0	0	0	30
Hampshire	10	0	0	0	0	10
Hertfordshire	10	0	0	0	0	10
Humberside	10	0	0	0	0	10
Kent	7	0	0	0	0	7
Lancashire	20	0	0	0	0	19
Leicestershire	15	0	0	0	0	15
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	0	0	4
Merseyside	13	0	0	0	0	13
Metropolitan Police	113	0	0	0	0	112
Norfolk	5	0	0	0	0	5
North Yorkshire	6	0	0	0	0	6
Northamptonshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Northumbria	20	0	0	0	0	20
Nottinghamshire	13	0	0	0	0	13
South Yorkshire	19	0	0	0	0	19
Staffordshire	9	0	0	0	0	9
Suffolk	6	0	0	0	0	6
Surrey	5	0	0	0	0	C
Sussex	17	0	0	0	0	16
Thames Valley	12	0	0	0	0	12
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	1	0
West Mercia	9	0	0	0	0	9
West Midlands	52	0	0	0	2	48
West Yorkshire	30	1	0	0	3	25
Wiltshire	6	0	0	0	0	6
Dyfed-Powys	2	0	0	0	0	2

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2003[1,2,3,4,5]

						2003
		Result				
Force	Found guilty	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody
Gwent	9	0	0	0	0	9
North Wales	6	0	0	0	0	6
South Wales	17	0	0	0	0	17
Total (England and Wales)	583	1	0	0	7	568

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced for an offence during a year does not always equal the number found guilty, as a defendant may be sentenced for an offence in a different year to the year they are found guilty of that offence.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2004[1,2,3,4,5]

						2004
		Result				
Force	Found guilty	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody
Avon and Somerset	22	0	0	0	1	21
Bedfordshire	12	0	0	0	0	12
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	0	0	4
Cheshire	11	0	0	0	0	11
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	10	0	0	0	1	9
Cumbria	10	0	0	0	1	9
Derbyshire	19	0	0	0	0	19
Devon and Cornwall	15	0	0	0	1	14
Dorset	4	0	0	0	0	4
Durham	8	0	0	0	0	8
Essex	9	0	0	0	0	9
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	27	0	0	0	0	27
Hampshire	14	0	0	0	0	12
Hertfordshire	11	0	0	0	1	10
Humberside	8	0	0	0	0	8
Kent	10	0	0	0	0	10
Lancashire	16	0	0	0	0	16
Leicestershire	12	0	0	0	0	12
Lincolnshire	5	0	0	0	0	5
Merseyside	20	0	0	0	0	20
Metropolitan Police	103	0	0	0	0	101
Norfolk	9	0	0	0	0	9
North Yorkshire	12	0	0	0	1	11
Northamptonshire	14	1	0	0	1	12
Northumbria	18	0	1	0	1	16
Nottinghamshire	11	0	0	0	0	11
South Yorkshire	23	0	0	0	0	23
Staffordshire	16	0	0	0	0	16
Suffolk	3	0	0	0	0	3
Surrey	5	0	0	0	0	5
Sussex	12	0	0	0	0	12
Thames Valley	16	0	0	0	0	16
Warwickshire	3	0	0	0	0	3
West Mercia	10	0	0	0	0	10
West Midlands	51	0	0	0	3	48
West Yorkshire	48	0	0	0	1	47
Wiltshire	4	0	0	0	0	4

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2004[1,2,3,4,5]

						2004
				Result		
Force	Found guilty	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody
Dyfed-Powys	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gwent	6	0	0	0	0	6
North Wales	6	0	0	0	0	6
South Wales	23	0	1	0	1	21
Total (England and Wales)	644	1	2	0	13	624

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced for an offence during a year does not always equal the number found guilty, as a defendant may be sentenced for an offence in a different year to the year they are found guilty of that offence.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2005[1,2,3,4,5]

						2005
				Result		
Force	Found guilty	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody
Avon and Somerset	11	0	0	0	2	8
Bedfordshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Cambridgeshire	9	0	0	0	1	8
Cheshire	10	0	0	0	0	10
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	8	0	0	0	0	8
Cumbria	6	0	0	0	0	6
Derbyshire	12	0	0	0	1	11
Devon and Cornwall	19	0	0	0	0	18
Dorset	4	0	0	0	1	3
Durham	8	0	0	0	0	8
Essex	11	0	0	0	0	11
Gloucestershire	3	0	0	0	0	3
Greater Manchester	46	0	0	0	3	43
Hampshire	27	0	0	0	2	24
Hertfordshire	6	0	0	0	0	6
Humberside	16	0	0	0	1	15
Kent	17	0	0	0	2	15
Lancashire	13	0	0	0	0	13
Leicestershire	10	0	0	0	0	10
Lincolnshire	13	0	0	0	1	12
Merseyside	23	0	0	1	0	22
Metropolitan Police	104	0	0	0	0	102
Norfolk	10	0	0	0	0	9
North Yorkshire	11	0	0	0	0	11
Northamptonshire	7	0	0	0	0	6
Northumbria	11	0	0	0	1	10
Nottinghamshire	18	0	0	0	0	17
South Yorkshire	35	0	1	0	0	33
Staffordshire	13	0	0	0	1	12
Suffolk	7	0	0	0	1	6
Surrey	4	0	0	0	0	3
Sussex	11	0	0	0	0	11
Thames Valley	21	0	0	0	0	20
Warwickshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
West Mercia	11	0	0	0	0	11
West Midlands	62	0	0	0	4	57
West Yorkshire	48	0	0	0	3	44

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2005[1,2,3,4,5]

						2005
		Result				
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Wiltshire	3	0	0	0	0	3
Dyfed-Powys	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gwent	7	0	0	0	0	7
North Wales	3	0	0	0	0	3
South Wales	16	0	0	0	1	15
Total (England and Wales)	694	0	1	1	25	654

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1st May 2004.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced for an offence during a year does not always equal the number found guilty, as a defendant may be sentenced for an offence in a different year to the year they are found guilty of that offence.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

						2006
		Result				
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Avon and Somerset	17	0	0	0	1	16
Bedfordshire	5	0	0	0	0	5
Cambridgeshire	6	0	0	0	0	6
Cheshire	17	0	1	0	2	14
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	16	0	0	0	0	16
Cumbria	5	0	0	0	0	5
Derbyshire	20	0	0	0	0	19
Devon and Cornwall	18	0	0	0	0	18
Dorset	8	0	0	0	1	7
Durham	7	0	0	0	0	7
Essex	12	1	0	0	1	10
Gloucestershire	13	0	0	0	0	13
Greater Manchester	47	0	0	0	0	47
Hampshire	30	0	0	0	2	28
Hertfordshire	8	0	0	0	1	6
Humberside	26	0	0	0	2	24
Kent	17	0	0	0	1	16
Lancashire	29	0	0	0	2	27
Leicestershire	7	0	0	0	0	7
Lincolnshire	7	0	0	0	0	7
Merseyside	15	0	0	0	0	15
Metropolitan Police	133	0	0	0	3	128
Norfolk	14	0	0	0	0	14
North Yorkshire	11	0	0	0	2	9
Northamptonshire	12	0	0	0	0	11
Northumbria	19	0	0	0	1	17
Nottinghamshire	13	0	0	0	0	13
South Yorkshire	25	0	0	0	4	21
Staffordshire	8	0	0	0	0	8
Suffolk	12	0	0	0	0	11
Surrey	5	0	0	0	1	4
Sussex	11	0	0	0	0	11
Thames Valley	17	0	0	0	0	17
Warwickshire	5	0	0	0	0	5
West Mercia	14	0	0	0	1	11
West Midlands	48	0	0	0	2	46

Number of persons found guilty of rape at all courts who were given immediate custody, community sentence, a fine, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge, in England and Wales by police force area for the year 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

						2006
				Result		
Force	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
West Yorkshire	37	0	0	0	3	34
Wiltshire	11	0	0	0	1	10
Dyfed-Powys	3	0	0	0	0	2
Gwent	7	0	0	0	1	6
North Wales	3	0	0	0	0	3
South Wales	16	0	0	0	0	16
Total (England and Wales)	754	1	1	0	32	710

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1, and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced for an offence during a year does not always equal the number found guilty, as a defendant may be sentenced for an offence in a different year to the year they are found guilty of that offence.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Tribunals

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of his Department's appeal tribunal (reference: 170/07/01000) on Mr. Rod Leighton. [193243]

Bridget Prentice: The cost of processing appeal tribunal (reference 170/07/01000) was £261.00. This is an average cost as calculated by the Tribunals Service.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 March 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of staff in her office were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193574]

Helen Goodman: Owing to a machinery of Government change in May 2007, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons now forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will be answering this question shortly on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age Discrimination

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with other Government Departments on discrimination in the supply of goods and services to people on the basis of age. [190505]

Barbara Follett: Since the Discrimination Law Review was launched in February 2005 we have consulted widely across Whitehall on this matter. In particular we have had detailed discussions with the domestic affairs (communities and equality) committee departments.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited to the Government Equalities Office in each of the last three years. [191503]

Barbara Follett: The Prime Minister announced the establishment of the GEO on 26 July 2007, and since then we have not recruited anyone over the age of 55.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what arrangements *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be put in place by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to develop and consolidate relationships with (i) the Mayor's office and (ii) the Greater London Assembly. [192854]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* In November 2007, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's chief executive met the Mayor's director of equalities and Policing and other key GLA staff to discuss how the new Commission could work with the Greater London Authority (GLA) on promoting equality and tackling discrimination across London. Since then, Commission staff have met GLA officers regularly to progress these issues.

The Commission is currently drawing up its business plan for 2008-09 and its stakeholder strategy to promote that work. This will include further arrangements to strengthen links between the Commission and the GLA. The Commission will also be engaging with the London Assembly to ensure that its members are informed and, where appropriate, involved in its work on behalf of Londoners.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff are employed in London by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, broken down by *(a)* grade and *(b)* specialism; and what consultative stakeholder committees the Commission (i) has established and (ii) plans to establish. [192855]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* On *(a)* and *(b)*, the Commission has 79 permanent staff in London and is currently undergoing a job matching process which means staff who have come from the previous commissions (Commission for Racial Equality, Equal Opportunities Commission and Disability Rights Commission) are still on the same grading as they were before joining. Staff will be offered the opportunity to join the Commission's new grading structure when the job matching process is completed. That exercise is still in progress.

On (i) and (ii), the Commission has statutory committees advising on issues relating to Scotland and Wales and also on matters related to disabled people. The Commission is currently developing a stakeholder strategy, including consideration of what further consultative stakeholder mechanisms it may require. As part of the development of this strategy, the Commission has held an initial scoping event with stakeholders on religion and belief issues and has further events on age and sexual orientation planned.

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many plasma television screens have been purchased by the Government Equalities Office, and at what cost, since its creation. [191123]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment, the Government Equalities Office has purchased two plasma television screens for ministerial use. The total cost of the purchase and installation of the televisions was £2,578.84.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters his Department received in each of the last five years. [187063]

David Cairns: The total number of mail items that the Scotland Office receives is not recorded. The number of items received for ministerial and official reply in the last four years is recorded, as follows:

	Number of items for ministerial or official reply
2004-05	1,338
2005-06	1,249
2006-07	1,273
2007-08	1,489

In addition, over 3,000 other pieces of correspondence have been received in the ministerial private office in each of the last two years.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192065]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office spent the following on pot plants:

	Cost (£)
2002-03	2,011
2003-04	2,013
2004-05	1,264
2005-06	30
2006-07	0

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether consideration has been given to applying gender-responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192106]

David Cairns: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but concluded that further work was needed before gender-responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its agencies spent on first-class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187661]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on first-class travel. All travel is undertaken by the most efficient and costs effective way, in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis; the 2006-07 edition was published on 25 July 2007, and is also available in the Library of the House.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187743]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on Eurostar journeys. All travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost-effective way, in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis; the 2006-07 edition was published on 25 July 2007, and is also available in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Pensioners

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners have claimed free bus travel in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [186668]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information about the number of pensioners who have claimed free travel at the level requested. Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) administers the concessionary travel scheme that covers *(a)* Jarrow, and *(b)* South Tyneside. Tyne and Wear PTE reported to the Department that it had 219,703 concessionary travel passes in circulation. For the *(c)* north-east region, it reported 466,445 passes in circulation.

As *(d)*, it is not known how many people in the UK have claimed free bus travel. Concessionary travel is a devolved issue, so Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own arrangements.

In England, around 11 million older and eligible disabled people may benefit from the improved geographic coverage of the statutory minimum bus travel concession from 1 April this year. To date, around 7.5 million people have taken up passes. In the constituency of Jarrow, over 16,000 people are eligible for concessionary travel.

Dartford Tunnel: Queen Elizabeth II Brige

Mr.Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the number of residents of the *(a)* Bexley Havering, *(c)* Gravesham and *(d)* Sevenoaks local authority areas who made fewer than 10 single journeys per annum over the Dartford River Crossing in each of the last three years; [193047]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of residents of the *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Havering, *(c)* Gravesham and *(d)* Sevenoaks local authority areas who made more than 50 single journeys per annum over the Dartford River Crossing in each of the last three years; [193048]

(3) how many people in the *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Havering, *(c)* Gravesham and *(d)* Sevenoaks local authority areas live within (i) six miles and (ii) 10 miles of the Dartford River Crossing. [193049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made estimates of the figures requested.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189791]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department spent £102,834 on bottled water during the latest year for which figures are available. This includes spend on associated items such as cooler units and water provided for members of the public by the Highways Agency Traffic Officer service during major incidents and driving test candidates at Driving Standards Agency driving test centres.

At our main London HQ buildings we will be ending the provision of bottled water for meetings as a priority and providing tap water instead. This will take a short time to arrange, as we use up existing stocks and purchase carafes.

The data exclude spend by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and regional offices of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency where spend is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration was given to the noise costs indicated by the attitudes to noise from aviation sources in England study in drawing up the financial estimates in the adding capacity at Heathrow consultation. [193689]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government said at the time of publication of the study "Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England" that study they would take the findings into account in developing air transport policy. However, as the independent peer reviewers made clear, the study could not provide a reliable way of attaching a monetary figure to the impact of aircraft noise.

Consequently, and pending the availability of a better alternative, we applied existing valuations for road and rail noise in the cost benefit analysis for the adding capacity at Heathrow consultation.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Manpower

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency at the most recent date for which figures are available. [194439]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are 1,245 people employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, as on 11 March 2008.

Metronet: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Metronet's weekly cost to the public purse has been since it went into administration; and from what budget the costs are met. [189304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS, the Secretary of State made a written statement on the spending review settlement reached with Transport for London. This statement includes cover for costs arising from Metronet's administration.

It is now for Transport for London to manage its costs and priorities within its overall financial envelope.

Night Flying: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many night flights there were from *(a)* East Midlands Airport and *(b)* designated London airports in each of the last 10 years. [192417]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Night flights at the three London designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) are subject to restriction. With some exemptions, a movements and noise quota limit applies during the night quota period (11.30 pm to 6.00 am). The following table sets out the number of movements of aircraft subject to these controls. While there are restrictions on the type of aircraft that can be operated during the shoulder periods (11.00 pm to 11.30 pm and 6 am to 7 am), there are no limits on movements or quota during these periods.

Total number of movements in night quota period (11.30 pm to 6 am)

	Heathrow	*Gatwick*	*Stansted*
Summer 1997	3007	8,093	2,821
1997-98[1]	5,506	11,472	7,899
1998-99	6,194	12,467	5,451
1999-00	5,752	12,822	6,291

Total number of movements in night quota period (11.30 pm to 6 am)

	Heathrow	Gatwick	Stansted
2000-01	5,886	14,324	7,260
2001-02	5,952	12,226	7,786
2002-03	5,977	11,954	7,695
2003-04	5,831	12,979	7,934
2004-05	5,843	13,939	8,958
2005-06	5,973	14,193	9,755
2006-07	6,238	12,909	11,067

[1] i.e. Winter/summer.

Note:

The totals relate to movements covered by the Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted noise restrictions. They include some movements which were disregarded from movements limits because of delays to aircraft which were likely to lead to serious congestion at the aerodrome or serious hardship or suffering to passengers or animals; or because of delays to aircraft resulting from widespread and prolonged disruption of air traffic.

No similar regime involving a night quota period is in place at East Midlands. Flights are recorded on a calendar year basis and on a night period basis (11.00 pm to 7 pm). Accordingly, these data are not compatible with that provided.

Total number of movements in night period (11.00 pm to 7 am)

	East Midlands
1997	16,071
1998	14,651
1999	14,731
2000	16,565
2001	15,418
2002	17,158
2003	17,468
2004	17,079
2005	16,544
2006	17,998
2007	19,888

Railways: Brighton

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average loading is of the diesel train service between Brighton and Ashford *(a)* in peak hours and *(b)* across the working day. [193910]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department.

Road Traffic: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will *(a)* review and *(b)* estimate the likely traffic capacity of the (i) A47, (ii) A1139, (iii) A605 and (iv) A15 roads within the Peterborough city council area in the period up to 2020 consequent upon planned large-scale residential development; and if she will make a statement. [193682]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Reviewing and estimating traffic capacity at this local level is a matter for Peterborough city council in its development of local transport plans.

Southern: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on rolling stock: Brighton, what assessment *(a)* she and *(b)* Southern have made of the capacity of diesel rolling stock available to that company to accommodate passenger demand on the (i) Brighton-Ashford and (ii) other railway lines; and if she will make a statement. [193909]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train operating companies make decisions about the deployment of rolling stock to match customer demand.

The Department for Transport will continue to review train counts and train plans to check that resources are being deployed effectively.

The rail White Paper was published in July 2007. It sets out the resources that we intend to make available to the rail industry and the increases in capacity, as well as safety and performance that we expect the industry to deliver in return.

Transport: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2757-58W, on housing: infrastructure, what work programmes have been evaluated for the infrastructure improvements needed to meet new housing developments recommended for the Bournemouth area. [193926]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recommendations on housing developments for Bournemouth are those of an independent panel that examined the draft regional spatial strategy for the south-west. As part of the Government's consideration of the report of the panel published in January 2008, the Departments for Transport and for Communities and Local Government are considering the transport implications of the proposed levels of growth. No conclusions have been reached by the Government on any of the panel's recommendations.

Bournemouth borough council has not put forward proposals to the Government for new housing growth in its area. However, in relation to proposals for growth from Poole council, the Department is working with Poole and its neighbouring authorities including Bournemouth to examine the transport impact of the planned growth in the area.

The Departments for Transport and for Communities and Local Government have provided £200,000 towards the cost of studies by Poole and its neighbouring authorities to assess the need for transport infrastructure improvements and to ensure that the proposed housing growth is sustainable and acceptable environmentally.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2766W, on transport: finance, how much of *(a)* the £87 million regional transport budget and *(b)* the £173.7 million capital funding for the South West was allocated to Bournemouth. [193927]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(a) None of the regional transport budget for 2006-07 was allocated to Bournemouth borough council because the authority did not have any approved major schemes in construction during that year.

(b) Of the £173.3 million block capital funding for local authorities in the South West region for 2006-07, £2.691 million was allocated to Bournemouth borough council, consisting of an integrated transport allocation of £1.652 million and a highways capital maintenance allocation of £1.039 million.

Transport: East of England

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 97-8WS, on rail and road capacity (east of England), what estimate she has made of the cost of the proposed *(a)* rail and *(b)* road improvements; and what contribution she expects to be forthcoming from BAA to each. [192367]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The proposed work to look into capacity improvements on the M11 and the West Anglia Main Line will examine a range of potential options. At this stage, it is too early to provide any clear indications of scheme costs.

In line with the provisions in the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper, BAA will contribute to the costs to the extent that improvements are required to cater for airport-related traffic, subject to the necessary referral to the economic regulator and the planning process.

Transport: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which integrated transport projects undertaken by Kent county council in north Kent have been financed by the proceeds of the Dartford River Crossing tolls; and in which constituencies those projects are located. [193046]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has made available £1 million per year extra since 2003 to Kent county council to help deliver local transport projects. This is in recognition of the impact of the crossing on local residents.

This funding is provided as an addition to the local transport block capital allocation for Kent county council, which in 2007-08 totalled £36.737 million. Responsibility for allocating these funds is a matter for Kent county council, and the Department does not require the authority to provide detailed returns on its decisions.

Travel Concessions

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities receive funding from central Government to fully cover the costs of implementing the national concessionary fares scheme. [193111]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are confident that the overall level of funding for the statutory minimum provision of concessionary travel is sufficient to cover the full cost.

Following the introduction of the free off-peak local bus travel concession within local authority areas in April 2006, central Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and £367.5 million in 2007-08 for statutory concessionary fares through the revenue support grant. The Department is now paying an additional special grant of £212 million in 2008-09 (rising thereafter) just to cover the cost of extending the statutory minimum bus concession to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England. This additional amount of £212 million is based on our assessment of the likely cost impact of the new concession which is based on generous assumptions about pass take-up, fares and increased patronage.

The proposed distribution of this grant was published by the Department for Transport in the Special Grant Report (No. 129) on 19 February. The final distribution will be subject to parliamentary debate and a copy of the report is in the Library of the House.

In addition, the Government paid a grant of over £31 million in total to travel concession authorities (TCAs) in England outside London in this financial year (2007-08) to cover the cost of issuing concessionary travel passes. The passes grant to each TCA is based on an allowance of £4 for each pass currently in circulation, uplifted by 20 per cent. to recognise that the new concession is likely to be more attractive than the existing one.

TREASURY

Car Allowances

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will publish the results of the review of the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments Scheme. [193748]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government would maintain the tax-free mileage allowance (AMAPs) rates and thresholds at current levels.

Charities: Income Tax

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government plan to take in relation to the potential effects on charities in receipt of gift aid of the new basic rate of income tax to be introduced in April 2008. [193342]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* HM Treasury has recently consulted on ways to drive up charitable giving from individuals through gift aid.

The Government published their response to the consultation at Budget.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2800W, on welfare tax credits, how many of the households with positive entitlement to child tax credit did not claim it in 2005-06. [193701]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC tax credit statistics show that take-up of the child tax credit was 82 per cent. by case load in 2005-06, rising to 96 per cent. for those families with children on the lowest incomes. Consistent take-up estimates for families classified as being in poverty according to the definition used in "Households Below Average Income" are not available.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what civil service grade his Department's director in public services is; how the position was advertised; which search consultants were involved; what references were taken up for the successful candidate; at what level the decision to appoint was taken; and whether Ministers were involved in the decision. [192739]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The director of public services is graded as senior civil service payband 2.

Rockpools was engaged by the Department to assist with the recruitment campaign, and the post was advertised in *The Sunday Times* on 9 December 2007.

In line with the civil service commissioners' recruitment code, the selection panel was chaired by a civil service commissioner and comprised the Treasury's second permanent secretary, along with an external representative. No Ministers were involved in the decision-making process.

Appropriate references were obtained on the successful candidate in line with the Department's policy on pre-employment checks.

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named-day answer. [193397]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is given in the table:

Weeks	*Questions awaiting answer (named day component)*
2-4	13 (-)
4-6	14 (2)
6-8	11 (1)
8 +	17 (1)

Treasury Ministers have answered substantively 2,123 House of Commons written questions in the present session. Over the preceding seven sessions since 2000-01, some 78 per cent. of the 26,493 written questions received by the Treasury were answered substantively on or before the due date.

Economic Situation: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to take into account *(a)* the wider social and economic issues facing West Cumbria, *(b)* the needs of businesses in the same area, *(c)* the skills and experience of the Whitehaven workforce and *(d)* West Cumbria's roads and public transport infrastructure when making decisions relating to the future of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Whitehaven. [193596]

Jane Kennedy: Factors such as these are taken into account before a decision is made on the future of any office in HMRC's regional review programme. The overall aim of this programme is to restructure HMRC's estate and business in the most efficient way possible so as to provide a better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

HM Revenue and Customs: Bonuses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used to determine *(a)* the total amount available for bonus payments to HM Revenue and Customs staff in each pay year and *(b)* the amounts awarded to individuals as bonuses. [193313]

Jane Kennedy: A common pay framework for the Senior Civil Service (SCS) is determined by the Cabinet Office, and not delegated to individual Departments. This framework includes incentive payments for the highest-performing staff who can demonstrate that they have delivered the outcomes expected of them and service improvements that matter to the public. The Cabinet Office also determines the size of the overall SCS bonus pot each year.

Full details of SCS pay criteria and awards are set out annually by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Its 29th Report on Senior Salaries 2007 (Cm 7030) includes a review of the pay system in 2005-06 and recommendations for 2006-07.

In accordance with this guidance, HMRC paid performance awards in four non-consolidated, non-pensionable tranches for 2006-07: zero, minimum (£3,000), medium (9 per cent. of base salary) and high (15 per cent. of base salary). Payment of these bonuses was made in November 2007.

Pay for other staff is delegated to individual Departments, who are expected to negotiate pay deals with their staff in accordance with pay remit guidance issued by HM Treasury. HMRC agreed a three-year pay remit with the Treasury in 2005, and a three-year pay settlement with staff and unions for pay awards in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. HMRC has made provision for a proportion of the overall funds available to be invested in non-consolidated performance awards.

HMRC's bonus pot of 0.80 per cent. is currently below the minimum level of 2.5 per cent. recommended in the pay remit guidance. HMRC's pay settlement provides for a payment for a "top performer" of between 2.5 per cent. and 5 per cent. of salary, and a smaller payment for a "good performer" whose salary has reached the range maximum.

HMRC sets the actual percentage of performance awards paid each year on the basis of affordability, after analysing performance marks received by staff and the resulting cost implications.

HM Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs has transferred more than 50 tax returns between offices in each of the last 12 months. [193295]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training courses were attended by HM Revenue and Customs staff in the last 12 months. [193300]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

HM Revenue and Customs: Whitehaven

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how staff from the HM Revenue and Customs office in Whitehaven will be consulted on the future of the office. [193597]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes its proposals on its internal staff intranet at the start of any review, and whenever possible business units hold face-to-face meetings with staff to explain and discuss the proposals. Staff are invited to comment on them, either individually or as part of a team, via a dedicated e-mail facility. Staff can also engage with their trade unions to put forward their views.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the consultation on the future of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Whitehaven to *(a)* begin and *(b)* conclude; and what criteria he expects to be taken into account in the decision-making process. [193598]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has too much office space and will need even less in the future. It is therefore engaged in a review programme to decide which offices best suit its future business needs. It has already reviewed offices in and around the major urban centres, and is currently working on a timetable, which it hopes to publish shortly, for the review of its remaining offices, including Whitehaven.

The potential impacts of an office closure on staff, customers and the wider local community are taken into account in the decision-making process, and balanced against HMRC's overall aim of restructuring its estate and business in the most efficient way possible.

Income Tax Rates and Bands

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue that would be raised by a 1 per cent. increase in the higher rate of income tax, based on *(a)* 2007-08 tax bands and *(b)* 2008-09 tax bands. [194049]

Jane Kennedy: The cost or yield from a 1p change in the higher rate of income tax is regularly published in the "Tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs", copies of which are in the Library, and in table 1.6 on the HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

An updated version of table 1.6 reflecting changes announced in Budget 2007 which take effect from April 2008 is due to be published at the end of April.

Landfill Tax

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the landfill levy was allocated as tax foregone in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [193104]

(2) what income he received from the operation of the landfill levy in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [193105]

(3) what the disbursements from tax foregone on the landfill levy to *(a)* environmental trusts and other bodies and *(b)* Business Resource Efficiency and Waste were in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [193106]

Angela Eagle: Latest landfill tax receipts are published by HM Revenue and Customs at

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill

This also includes estimates of tax forgone as a result of contributions to environmental bodies (EBs) through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF); the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme is not funded via tax foregone.

Information submitted to ENTRUST, the regulatory body for the LCF, shows the total contributions received by EBs as follows:

	£
2004	46,610,695
2005	52,723,090
2006	56,013,671
2007	64,549,433

Public Buildings

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Public Sector Building Non-housing (PUBSEC) index, rebased to 2000, for each quarter of each financial from since 1990 to 2000. [191683]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Public Sector (Non-Housebuilding) index was published in the bulletin "Quarterly Building Price and Cost Indices". I have arranged for a copy of the index, rebased to the year 2000, to be deposited in the Library.

Regional Development Agencies: Complaints

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints against regional development agencies were *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld in each year for which figures are available. [191357]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

RDAs record information relating to formal complaints in different ways. The following tables show the number of complaints against RDAs which were received and upheld.

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
RDAs	*Complaints received*	*Complaints upheld*	*Complaints received*	*Complaints upheld*	*Complaints received*	*Complaints upheld*
AWM1	—	—	—	—	2	2
EEDA2	3	—	5	1	4	1
HMD A3	—	—	—	—	—	—
LDA4	—	—	—	—	17	0
NWDA	0	0	0	0	0	0
ONES	—	—	—	—	—	—
SEEDA6	—	—	—	—	—	—
SWRDA	0	0	0	0	0	0
YF7	—	—	10	0	3	0

	2005-06		2006-07	
RDAs	*Complaints received*	*Complaints upheld*	*Complaints received*	*Complaints upheld*
AWM1	3	3	3	3
EEDA2	4	3	6	2
HMD A3	0	0	0	0
LDA	29	0	20	0
NWDA	0	0	7	1
ONES	20	0	24	0
SEEDA6	2	0	1	0
SWRDA	0	0	1	0
YF	9	0	16	0

Notes:

1. AWM only records formal complaints which could not be resolved in the first instance and required further action to resolve them. The AWM figures in the table all relate to formal complaints which required investigation and, in some cases, further action.

2. EEDA's complaints upheld figures for 2002-03 are in archive and are not held centrally and are available only at disproportionate cost. Complaints received figures for 2002-03 are from the annual reports and accounts.

3. EMDA only records complaints which could not be resolved in the first instance and required further action to resolve them.

4. LDA's figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are archived. This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

5. Prior to 2005-06, ONE did not record complaints received. After 2005-06, the agency only recorded complaints received. The complaints procedure is not designed to result in a complaint being 'upheld' or not. The complaints ONE receives are rarely of a nature that enables them to record information in this way as the procedure is actually a mediation process. For example, a complaint may relate to failure of a complainant to secure funding - the resolution in this case would be to discuss feedback with the complainant and point them in the direction of alternative funding sources.

6. SEEDA only records complaints which could not be resolved in the first instance and required further action to resolve them.

7 Prior to 2003-04, YF did not record complaints received.

Revenue and Customs: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has authorised the purchase by HM Revenue and Customs of information suspected to be stolen; [192866]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Principality of Liechtenstein on the return of stolen information to the Bank of Liechtenstein; [192867]

(3) what code of ethics applies to the procurement by HM Revenue and Customs of suspected stolen documentation; [192868]

(4) whether he has had discussions with the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs on the purchase by HM Revenue and Customs of suspected stolen documents. [192869]

Jane Kennedy: Handling information relating to the administration of taxes is an operational matter for HMRC, which discusses a wide range of taxation issues with international businesses and tax authorities.

The Government have bilateral international treaties which provide for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to work with other countries' tax administrations to secure and share information to prevent double taxation, to prevent fraud and avoidance, and to implement domestic law.

In relation to other aspects of the handling of this individual case, I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

VAT

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much value-added tax was collected in each local authority area in England in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [193510]

Jane Kennedy: Geographical analysis of where VAT is collected is not available.

VAT: Plastic Bags

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of value-added tax revenue raised on re-usable shopping bags in 2006. [193591]

Jane Kennedy: No estimate has been made.

Working Tax Credit: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency received working tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [194033]

Jane Kennedy: In 2005-06, the average number of families receiving working tax credits in the Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency was 3,400.

This information is from the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Geographical Analysis", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of staff in his office were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193573]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson).

Fairtrade Initiatives

Mr. Moore: To ask the Prime Minister what his Office's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183884]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of hate crimes were recorded in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [192353]

Paul Goggins: The following table records the number of 'Hate Incidents' recorded in Northern Ireland by the PSNT in 2006 and 2007.

	1 January to 31 December each year	
Motivation	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Racist	1,069	852
Homophobic	177	136
Faith/Religion	123	152
Sectarian	1,754	1,097
Disability	52	49
Transphobic	28	9

[1] The hate motivation figures for 2007 are provisional and should be treated with caution. The PSNI is aware of some under-recording in these incident types during 2007-08 as a result of a change in processes/systems that was introduced on 1 April 2007. Procedures have been put in place to improve the accuracy of these figures by the end of the financial year.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Abbott Mead Vickers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts there were between his Department and Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose of each was. [192047]

Margaret Hodge: There have been no contracts between DCMS and Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in the last 10 years.

Archaeology: Flag Fen

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to offer financial or other assistance to the Flag Fen bronze age site near Peterborough to *(a)* continue and *(b)* expand its (i) exhibition and (ii) excavation work; and if he will make a statement. [192487]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Since 1988-89 English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, has given around £356,000 to the Fenland Archaeological Trust (FAT) for surveys, excavation, analysis, detailed publication and public presentation of the Flag Fen site and its surroundings. £300,000 of this was given through the former Archaeology Commissions programme (now Historic Environment Enabling Programme). A further £56,000 was contributed through regional grant aid specifically for the Preservation Hall. In addition to this expenditure a popular account of the site was published in the English Heritage/Batsford series on England's archaeology. In 2008-09 English Heritage will be providing a further contribution of around £1,500 towards the publication of more recent investigations. Supporting the exhibition is outside the remit of English Heritage's grant schemes.

FAT is a partner in the Greater Fens Museum Partnership, which is receives £96,200 from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) "Renaissance in the Regions" regional museums development programme. The trust has received £1,500 for object conservation work from MLA.

FAT also secured £600,000 from the Millennium Commission towards the cost of a new Heritage Centre, as part of the £5.408 million Peterborough Green Wheel project. FAT has received two grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). In March 2006 the trust was awarded £178,000 to support education and outreach activities, and in August 2006, £44,688 was awarded for a project planning grant. HLF is anticipating a larger application as a result of this work.

Arts Council of England

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of Arts Council England's most recent edition of its register of interests, gifts, hospitality and other benefits. [192166]

Margaret Hodge: The information available will be placed in the Library of the House.

Arts Council of England: Public Appointments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the process for *(a)* appointing and *(b)* removing (i) national and (ii) regional Arts Council England members is. [192164]

Margaret Hodge: The process for appointing national members and regional chairs of Arts Council England is set out in the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. It includes ministerial agreement to a role specification against which candidates are assessed, advertising in the national press or on the DCMS and Cabinet Office websites and interviews of shortlisted candidates by a selection panel, followed by recommendations to Ministers on whom to appoint. An independent assessor is involved throughout, the final decision and appointment is then made by DCMS Ministers.

Non-chair members of the regional councils are appointed by the national council. The standard process involves advertisement and interviews followed by recommendations to the national council, which takes the final decision. However, for each regional council six of the members (eight on the South East regional council) are nominated by local authorities, regional government or regional development agencies, and then appointed by the national council.

The London regional council chair and four non-chair members are appointed by the Mayor of London (in the case of the chair, Secretary of State approval is also required).

Appointments of national members and regional chairs of Arts Council England may be terminated by the Secretary of State in accordance with article 7 of the Arts Council England Royal Charter and as set out in the terms and conditions of appointment.

National Council can remove non-chair members of any regional council (with the exception of the London regional council) with reasonable cause.

The Mayor of London can remove the London regional council chair and non-chair members with reasonable cause (in the case of the chair, Secretary of State approval is also required).

Casinos: Cash Dispensing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether automated teller machines authorised to be placed in casinos licensed under the Gambling Act 2005 will be permitted to dispense cash from credit card accounts. [193866]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A customer may obtain cash from an automated teller machine (ATM) in casinos by means of a credit card. A customer may not use a credit card to gamble at any gaming table, gaming machine or betting machine, or to purchase gaming chips.

The Gambling Act 2005 (Mandatory and Default Conditions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 attach a condition to all types of casino premises licence that any ATM made available shall be located in a place that requires any customer who wishes to use it to cease gambling at any gaming table, gaming machine or betting machine in order to do so.

Culture Online

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the impact of Culture Online on reaching new audiences for the arts, with particular reference to hard-to-reach groups. [193371]

Margaret Hodge: The Department commissioned Demos to produce an overview of Culture Online's work. Its report "Logging On: Culture, Participation and the Web" was published in May 2007. It provides an overview of lessons learned from the Culture Online programme and advice on how web technology can increase public participation in culture. I am arranging for copies of the report to be deposited in the Library.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what targets were set for measuring Culture Online's performance in *(a)* engaging with hard-to-reach groups, *(b)* enhancing access to the arts for children and young people and *(c)* opening up cultural institutions to the wider community. [193372]

Margaret Hodge: Culture Online commissioned a range of innovative projects aimed at different audiences. Each project had targets built into Culture Online's delivery contract with partner organisations, which included user numbers, costs per user and, where appropriate, engagement with specific audience groups.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was set aside for Culture Online; and how much was spent in each year since 2002. [193373]

Margaret Hodge: Funding of £10 million was allocated to Culture Online in 2002, mainly from the Capital Modernisation Fund. In 2005, an additional £3 million was allocated. Expenditure on Culture Online in each year since it was established is set out in the table. Culture Online closed at the end of March 2007.

Financial year	*£*
2002-03	265,379
2003-04	1,439,034
2004-05	3,893,000
2005-06	2,657,000
2006-07	4,205,000
2007-08 spend to date	72,312

Culture: Coastal Areas

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage cultural regeneration in coastal resorts. [194254]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's £45 million fund (£15 million a year over three years) to regenerate seaside resorts through heritage and cultural projects was announced on 30 November 2007.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make an announcement on the funding proposals for year 1 of the programme shortly.

Culture: Sponsorship

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2124W, on Culture: Sponsorship, how much business spending on the arts was in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [193379]

Margaret Hodge: The figures for business sponsorship of the arts are measured in the annual Private Investment Benchmarking Survey conducted by Arts and Business. The survey methodology was changed in 2002-03, and therefore the figures are not directly comparable.

	£ million
199-98	115.1
1998-99	141.2
1999-2000	150.4
2000-01	114.4
2001-02	111.0
New survey method introduced	
2002-03	164.2
2003-04	152.1
2004-05	155.0
2005-06	154.2
2006-07	171.5

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193430]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has had no reports of confidential or personal information being compromised as a result of the loss of DCMS property since 1997.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193527]

Margaret Hodge: Expenditure on hotel and other privately provided accommodation is not held separately or by the categories requested in the Department's accounting system. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis. Information for the period 1 May 1997 to 31 March 2007 is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2007-08 will be published after the end of the current financial year.

All travel is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193552]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number and percentage of staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport who have been making additional voluntary contributions to their pension in the last two years are as follows:

	Staff	*Percentage*
2006-07	6	1.14
2007-08	6	1.25

Internet Access

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what regulations govern access by minors to adult content on the internet. [192447]

Margaret Hodge: While there are no specific regulations in this area, the Government have taken steps to protect children from harmful content. Examples include the establishment and work of the Internet Watch Foundation, the Home Office task force on child protection and the cyber bullying guidance published by the DCSF in September 2007. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2038W, which gives more details about these measures.

In addition, the Prime Minister announced a review of the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content in video games and online. The review will assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate content.

Dr. Tanya Byron is conducting this review, and will report to Ministers in March 2008.

Religious Buildings: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which places of worship in Bexley have received funding from *(a)* English Heritage and *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund since 1997. [193349]

Margaret Hodge: Christ Church, Broadway, Bexleyheath received a grant from the Joint Places of Worship grant scheme. This scheme was jointly funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund and ended in 2002.

The Church of All Saints, Foot's Cray, has received a grant under the successor grant programme, the Repair

Grants for Places of Worship scheme. This scheme is also jointly funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department provided to each of the regional development agencies for the promotion of tourism in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value of each such payment was; and what further such expenditure he plans in the next three years. [191370]

Margaret Hodge: Funding for regional development agencies (RDAs) is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors such as tourism. In each year since 2003-04, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (DBERR's) Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight regional development agencies (RDAs) outside London. The Single Pot, which will total approximately £2.2 billion, £2.2 billion and £2.1billion, in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, is allocated among the RDAs by DBERR. The DCMS's contribution will be £3.5 million, £3.4 million and £3.3 million in these years.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is responsible for tourism in London. The DCMS has provided £1.9 million each year since 2001-02 to the GLA to support the Mayor in the delivery of the GLA's statutory tourism duties. The GLA and the London Development Agency report total spending of around £22 million on tourism support in 2006-07.

Since 2003-04, all the RDAs have developed regional tourism strategies, budgets, and delivery mechanisms, and worked with regional partners and VisitBritain to promote and develop their region's tourism industry. The RDAs outside London reported total spending on tourism support of £29.8 million in 2006-07.

Tourism: North West

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on tourism in *(a)* the north-west and *(b)* Cheshire; and if he will make a statement. [193751]

Margaret Hodge: Ministers and officials have had various discussions about tourism in the north-west in recent months, in particular with the North West Regional Development Agency, the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board and the Liverpool Culture Company. I visited Chester on 25 February and met a range of people from the public and private tourism sectors to discuss their plans for the future. I have also had many discussions with VisitBritain about its role in promoting tourism in the whole of Britain, including the north-west.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is due to participate in the Local Government Association's Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Liverpool on 14 March. I plan to visit Cumbria on 17 March to meet representatives of Cumbria Tourism.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objections in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191109]

Margaret Hodge: No such objections have been lodged.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have attended accident and emergency departments in England in each of the last five years in order to receive treatment for minor *(a)* ailments and *(b)* injuries. [192878]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table shows the number of attendances at minor injury and illness accident and emergency (A and E) services, including walk-in centres (WiCs) (type 3 including WiCs). It also shows total attendances for other types of A and E department (types 1 and 2).

It should be noted that reason for attendance at A and E services is not currently centrally available, so it is not possible to ascertain whether all patients attending type 3 services, including WiCs, are in fact doing so with minor ailments or minor injuries. Nor is it possible to ascertain how many of those attending other types of A and E are doing so with minor ailments or minor injuries.

Attendances at A and E departments, minor injury units and WiCs centres, England, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Type 1 and 2	*Type 3 (including WiC)*
2002-03	12,510,682	1,880,840
2003-04	13,272,055	3,244,790
2004-05	13,885,052	3,952,128
2005-06	14,202,418	4,556,746
2006-07	14,226,176	4,696,099

Note:
WiCs were only included in the collection from Q1 2003-04.
Source:
Department of Health QMAE dataset

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 325-6W, Alcoholic drinks: Misuse, how many *(a)* females and *(b)* males were considered to be binge drinkers in each of the last five years. [193928]

Dawn Primarolo: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) general household survey provides an estimate of the percentage of men and women who drank more eight or six units respectively than on at least one day in the previous week, a measure of binge drinking.

The following table gives figures for the percentage of men and women who were considered to be binge drinkers for the last five years where figures are available. It is important to note that in December 2007, the ONS described improvements in the ONS method for estimating alcohol consumption.

The improved method takes account of increases in the alcoholic strength of wine and the sizes of glass used, and uses better estimates of the alcoholic strength of beers, lagers and ciders. Figures for 2005 and 2006 were re-calculated using this improved methodology. Figures for years prior to 2005 were not re-calculated.

	Percentage of men who drank more than 8 units on any 1 day in the previous week	*Percentage of women who drank more than 6 units on any 1 day in the previous week*
Old method		
2002	21	10
2003	23	9
2004	22	9
2005	19	8
2006	18	8
Improved method		
2005	23	15
2006	23	15

Care Homes

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of accommodation have been provided using funding from the extra care housing grant since it began; how many have been provided by *(a)* councils, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* the private sector; and if he will make a statement on the future use of the grant. [183755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The development of more than 4,200 units of accommodation is being funded by the Department's extra care housing grant. All 72 schemes receiving funding from this grant were delivered by a council, and 68 of the schemes were delivered by councils in partnership with a registered social landlord. Records are not held centrally on private-sector involvement in the schemes.

A further £80 million will be made available between 2008 and 2010 to fund further extra care housing developments in England.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cervical cancer screenings there were in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [193626]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data for the cervical screening programme: coverage of the target age group (25-64) for Staffordshire based primary care trusts (PCTs), at 31 March 2003 to 2007 are set out in the following tables.

North Staffordshire PCT[1]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Eligible population[2]	50,750	50,490	50,391	50,211	50,290
Women screened (less than 3.5 yrs since last adequate test)	40,618	39,863	39,304	38,721	38,289
Women screened (less than 5 yrs since last adequate test)	43,235	42,685	42,359	41,754	41,414
Coverage (less than 3.5 yrs since last adequate test) (percentage)	80.0	79.0	78.0	77.1	76.1
Coverage (less than 5 yrs since last adequate test) (percentage)	85.2	84.5	84.1	83.2	82.4

South Staffordshire PCT[1]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Eligible population[2]	146,059	146,389	146,946	147,939	148,521
Women screened (less than 3.5 yrs since last adequate test)	115,112	114,587	114,159	114,549	113,813
since last adequate test)	123,557	123,036	122,701	122,608	122,416
Coverage (less than 3.5 yrs since last adequate test) (percentage)	78.8	78.3	77.7	77.4	76.6
Coverage (less than 5 yrs since last adequate test) (percentage)	84.6	84.0	83.5	82.9	82.4

[1] Data prior to March 2007 have been mapped to the current PCT structure

[2] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.

Note:

National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).

Source:

KC53 Parts A2 and A3, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Community Care: Expenditure

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was spent on NHS-funded continuing care for *(a)* adults with learning disabilities, *(b)* older people, *(c)* adults with physical disabilities and *(d)* adults with mental health problems in each primary care trust area in England in each quarter of 2007. [192340]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Dementia: Health Services

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on development of a national dementia strategy; and if he will make a statement. [192392]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has so far published two documents in support of the forthcoming national dementia strategy—'Strengthening the Involvement of People with Dementia: a resource for implementation' was published in November 2007 and 'Creative models of short breaks (respite care) for people with dementia' in February 2008.

The Department is working with stakeholder groups in developinf the national dementia strategy, and a formal consultation on the draft will take place between June and August 2008.

Drugs: Babies

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born with an addiction to a class A drug in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [193636]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not hold this information centrally but the following table gives details of babies born with addictions to any substance. The figures are from the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) and are based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) ICD-10 codes for identification of conditions. (ICD is the WHO's system for identifying conditions. ICD-10 is the tenth (and current) version.

	Finished consultant episodes for ICD-10 code P96.1
2006-07	1,162
2005-06	1,183
2004-05	1,160
2003-04	1,127
2002-03	1,031

There are no specific codes in ICD-10 that identify babies born with class A drug addiction. ICD-10 code P96.1 (neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction) indicates withdrawal symptoms due to maternal use of drugs of addiction. The fact that the neonate is in withdrawal indicates that they were born addicted to a drug. However, it is not limited to class A drug addiction. The P96.1 code includes neonatal addiction as a result of maternal use of class A drugs but also includes maternal addiction to any drug, for example cannabis or analgesics.

Drugs: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people with chronic health problems arising from illicit drug-taking; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of this. [191383]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made any formal estimate of the number of people with chronic health problems arising from illicit drug-taking. Nor has it made an estimate of the annual cost of this to the national health service.

However, there is a strong evidence base which has established the serious harms that drug misuse causes including those that are health-related. This is why we have invested substantially in drug treatment, allocating another £398 million pooled drug treatment budget this year for the treatment of drug misuse.

The Government launched their new national Drug Strategy on 27 February 2008, which, following on from the previous Drug Strategy, again identifies effective treatment as key to tackling these problems.

Hearing Impaired: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the recommended frequency with which people with hearing and balance disorders should be monitored by health care professionals. [190459]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patients should be advised to return to primary care to be referred for a review on a needs basis. It is suggested that patients are reviewed after a period of time, to check that their hearing aid is delivering optimum benefits. The frequency of such a review should be determined locally in conjunction with audiology providers and based on patient need. If a patient's hearing deteriorates and/or they feel their hearing aid is no longer fit for purpose, they should be advised to return to primary care where support may be provided. If appropriate, the patient will be referred to an audiology provider for assessment and, if required, treatment.

Macular Degeneration: Smoking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the relationship between smoking and the long-term incidence of age-related macular degeneration; if he will consider as part of the research the work that has been carried out by *(a)* Jennifer S. Tan and others for the Centre for Vision Research, University of Sydney and the Department of Ophthalmology, Westmead Hospital, New South Wales and *(b)* U. Chakravarthy and others; and if he will make a statement. [193521]

Dawn Primarolo: Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics. Both organisations welcome applications for support for research on any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to improve the regulation of the activities of the Nursing and Midwifery Council; and if he will make a statement. [191966]

Mr. Bradshaw: In February 2007 Government published the White Paper "Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century", which sets out a series of proposals to modernise the system of professional regulation. These proposals include a number of reforms to the governance of the regulatory bodies, such as the introduction of fully appointed, smaller, more board-like councils, where professional members no longer form a majority.

The Health and Social Care Bill will introduce provision to require the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) in its annual report to state how far, in exercising statutory functions, it and each health professions regulatory body has, in the council's opinion, promoted the health, safety and well-being of patients and other members of the public. It also clarifies that the CHRE is not prevented from investigating particular cases for the purpose of making general reports on the performance of health care regulatory bodies of its functions or making general recommendations to those bodies affecting future cases.

All regulators are currently required to produce annual reports which they send to the Privy Council, which then lays the reports before each House of Parliament. We have introduced further provision on the content of these reports, which includes a description of the arrangements that the council has put in place to ensure that it adheres to good practice in relation to equality and diversity. It will be a requirement that the regulator lay a copy of its annual report and strategic plan before the United Kingdom Parliament, and where appropriate the Scottish Parliament.

Palliative Care: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been implemented in North West Cambridgeshire. [192669]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Cambridgeshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been asked to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through East of England SHA.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners in North West Cambridgeshire to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care. [192670]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Cambridgeshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure that they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Eastbourne. [192019]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days were occupied by patients with a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each year since 1997-98, broken down by NHS trust; and what estimate he has made of the cost per bed day of treating a patient with a (A) primary and (B) secondary diagnosis of (1) malnutrition, (2) nutritional anaemias and (3) other nutritional deficiencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [189475]

Dawn Primarolo: Detailed information has been placed in the Library.

Pharmacies: Opening Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many pharmacies are operating for under 100 hours per week under the Medicines (Pharmacy and General Sale—Exemption) Amendment Order 2005 in the Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement; [193710]

(2) how many pharmacies operate in the Peterborough constituency *(a)* for under 100 hours a week under the provisions of section 12 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 and *(b)* for over 100 hours a week under the provisions of section 13 of the regulations; and if he will make a statement. [193828]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this issue directly with the chief executive of Peterborough primary care trust.

Self-Mutilation

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recorded self-harm incidents there were in England in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age group, *(b)* sex and *(c)* constituency; and if he will make a statement. [192567]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data are not available in the requested format.

Deliberate self-harm (DSH) results in about 170,000 attendances at accident and emergency departments in the United Kingdom annually, with more than 140,000 of these being in England and Wales. DSH is one of the top five causes of acute medical admission, and is the most common reason for medical admission of females and the second most common reason for males. Approximately two thirds of DSH patients are under 35 years old.

Hospital episode statistics record the number of finished consultant episodes of people who have been admitted in national health service hospitals with a primary diagnosis of injury and poisoning. Since a high proportion of these records do not record an external cause of injury or poisoning, such as deliberate self-harm, it is not possible to ascertain the total number of self-harm admissions accurately.

Torbay Hospital: Parking

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* revenue income and *(b)* estimated overhead cost of the parking charges scheme at Torbay hospital was in each of the last 10 years. [192256]

Mr. Bradshaw: Hospital car parking charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running and maintaining a car park. All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

Data on the gross income that national health service trusts receive from car parking charges paid by staff and visitors have been collected since 2000. These data are provided by the NHS on a voluntary basis and have not been amended following their collection, nor have they been actively checked by the Department. They therefore cannot be confirmed to be accurate or complete.

Information in respect of Torbay hospital, part of South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, is shown in the following table.

	Total gross income from car parking charges
2000-01	[1]—
2001-02	208,081
2002-03	316,896
2003-04	347,413
2004-05	418,319
2005-06	464,327
2006-07	464,213

[1] Trust did not submit data

The Department does not collect information about the overhead costs that trusts will incur in providing car parking facilities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions

7. **Mr. Geoffrey Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions. [193657]

Mr. Woolas: UK greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 16.4 per cent. since 1990 (20.7 per cent. including EU emmission trading scheme). We remain on course to nearly double our Kyoto Protocol target over the 2008-12 period.

The 2006 UK Climate Change Programme and the 2007 Energy White Paper set out the policies and measures for reducing emissions, and support the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. The Climate Change Bill, the first of its kind in any country, introduces legally binding carbon budgets to ensure that progress will continue.

Ramsar Convention

11. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what circumstances it is necessary to conduct *(a)* an appropriate assessment and *(b)* an environmental assessment before development on wetlands designated as being of international importance under the Ramsar convention. [193663]

Joan Ruddock: An appropriate assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. As a matter of policy, Ramsar sites in England and Wales are accorded the same protection as European sites.

In regard to environmental assessments, generally, it will fall to local planning authorities in the first instance to consider whether a proposed development requires an environmental impact assessment.

SSSIs

13. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to increase the number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable condition by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [193666]

Joan Ruddock: We are working closely with Natural England, and other stakeholders to achieve our public service agreement target of bringing 95 per cent. of England's SSSI land area into favourable or recovering condition by 2010. Currently, 80.8 per cent. of the SSSI land area is meeting the target and we are confident that the 2010 target, while challenging, remains achievable.

Veterinary Clinical Research

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department is providing for veterinary clinical research in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [193668]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA funding for animal health and welfare research in 2007-08 amounts to £39.4 million. The research programme involves more than 250 projects and covers a wide range of topics that includes both laboratory and field research. The programme is not divided into clinical and non-clinical work, and many of the projects include components of both.

Great Crested Newts

15. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the population of great crested newts in England and Leicestershire; and if he will make a statement. [193671]

Joan Ruddock: In 2006, it was estimated that there were approximately 66,000 great crested newt breeding ponds in England. As far as we are aware, there has been no specific estimate of the number of great crested newts in Leicestershire. Estimating the number of great crested newts is problematic because of a lack of detailed baseline survey data, and because existing data are fragmented between many recording centres.

Waste

16. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next expects to meet representatives of the Waste and Resources Action Programme to discuss waste and climate change. [193672]

Joan Ruddock: On 9 January 2008 I met with the chief executive of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to discuss its forthcoming programme of work. In addition, officials in my Department regularly meet with colleagues at WRAP to discuss a number of issues.

Warm Front

17. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the effectiveness of the Warm Front. [193673]

Mr. Woolas: The effectiveness of the Warm Front scheme and the performance of Eaga, the Warm Front scheme manager, are regularly and comprehensively audited by my Department and the independent quality assurors, White Young Green. These checks are intended to ensure that the scheme is being delivered in the best interests of both the Government and Warm Front clients.

Domestic Wastes: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the maximum likely annual charge to be levied in respect of domestic waste collection. [192411]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

No maximum charge has been set, although the Government retain a reserved power to create a cap on the level of incentive in the future, should this be necessary.

Since local authorities will not be able to keep any revenue which they collect through pilot schemes, they have no incentive to raise the level of the payments beyond what will encourage positive behaviour. Experience in other countries where incentive schemes are in operation also suggests that payments do not need to be high to be effective. The research report published in May 2007 shows, for example, that variable charges in the region of £30 to £50 were shown to drive behaviour change overseas.

Under a waste incentive scheme, it would be up to local authorities to set the level of charges that they believed would create an incentive. However, we will be looking at what level of charges are being proposed when local authorities come forward to run pilots.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether charges for the collection of household waste will be levied on householders occupying flats with communal bins. [193150]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

As with many of the powers that councils have in relation to local services, it will be up to individual authorities, working with their communities, to decide which households a pilot scheme should cover. The decision will include whether or not to cover flats, where householders occupy communal bins.

However, the Government have stressed in our overarching framework that pilot authorities must take account of the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups in devising and running schemes. We will seek to develop and publish guidance in this area to assist authorities in their assessment of these groups.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to conduct a consultation exercise before issuing guidance on charging for the collection of household waste. [193151]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

The Government are committed to producing a range of guidance to assist authorities in implementing household incentive schemes. The final timetable for producing and making guidance publicly available for comment has not been finalised, and to some extent will reflect the Bill's progress in Parliament. However, this process will certainly take place before the pilots begin.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of charges for household waste collection on families with children under the age of 12 months. [193152]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1393-94W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) who is responsible for deciding which local authorities charge for domestic waste collection; and whether such decisions will be subject to *(a)* parliamentary and *(b)* ministerial approval; [193155]

(2) whether his Department will require those local authorities participating in the pilots for the new charges for the collection of household waste to produce business plans for the pilot. [193181]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. Councils wishing to pilot schemes will be able to come forward with plans to fit local circumstances. These must be approved by the Secretary of State. Decisions about which local authorities will be able to run pilots will not be subject to parliamentary approval. However, all the pilot schemes will have to meet the legislative framework agreed by Parliament.

We will be working with stakeholders to develop a process for local authorities to come forward with proposals to pilot a waste incentive scheme. We have not yet finalised the details of the application procedure, and we will want to discuss this further with stakeholders. However, we would certainly expect to see a good quality plan included in an application process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision he has made for those who move out of a waste charging pilot area mid-year to be partially recompensed for annual charge payments. [193159]

Joan Ruddock: It will be up to local authorities, working with their communities, to decide how to administer charges and rebates under a waste incentive scheme. Payments could be made on an annual basis or more frequently. Where residents move out of the area, having already paid a forward-looking charge, local authorities may wish to recompense them. We will be working with stakeholders to produce guidance for local authorities on this.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual average gross administrative cost in cash terms to local authorities arising from charging for the collection of household rubbish. [193162]

Joan Ruddock: An Impact Assessment, evaluating the potential costs and benefits of running waste incentive pilot schemes, has been published and is available on the DEFRA website.

Research carried out for DEFRA presented in the Impact Assessment estimates annualised costs to local authorities of running a waste incentive scheme of between £236,000 to £532,000 based on the introduction of a revenue neutral scheme affecting 50,000 households.

However, we would expect local authorities to make overall savings from running a waste incentive scheme. This is due to the savings from having less waste to collect, treat and dispose of, which are estimated in the Impact Assessment to be between £0.3 million to £1.4 million per annum, which should be sufficient to outweigh costs.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to counter the use of fake bin bags in areas where local authorities operate charges for the collection of domestic waste on the basis of payment by sack. [193163]

Joan Ruddock: Where authorities are operating a sack-based waste incentive scheme they may, for example, need to consider the risk of residents purchasing and placing their waste in sacks other than those specified under the scheme. Where this happens, local authorities may, if necessary, issue fines or fixed penalty notices to residents. However, effective communications with residents will be a more important way to avoid the use of counterfeit sacks. We will be working with local authorities to provide guidance on effective local communications.

The Climate Change Bill includes the requirement that local authorities have a fly-tipping prevention strategy for preventing, minimising or otherwise dealing with the unauthorised deposit or disposal of waste.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether plans for pilots for charging for the collection of household waste include *(a)* the use of radio-frequency identification microchips and *(b)* charging according to frequency of collection; [193182]

(2) if he will conduct a privacy impact assessment on plans to introduce charges for the collection of household waste. [193188]

Joan Ruddock: We have no plans to favour one type of collection method over another. It is up to each local authority, working with its community, to decide how its waste incentive scheme should operate. However, we have created powers in the Climate Change Bill to allow pilots to operate in a variety of ways, including but not limited to weight-based schemes using microchips or schemes based on frequency of collection. Authorities will also be able to operate schemes based on bin size or numbers of sacks used to contain waste.

DEFRA has no plans to conduct a privacy impact assessment on the powers in the Climate Change Bill for up to five local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what exemptions are planned to operate in schemes to apply charges to the collection of household waste within pilot areas; [192313]

(2) what steps he plans to take to take account of *(a)* benefit recipients, *(b)* low-income groups and *(c)* other vulnerable people in (i) setting a charging regime for the collection of household waste and (ii) the design of pilot schemes on household waste collection. [192414]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

The exact details of how a scheme operates would be up to the local authorities coming forward to run pilots to decide. However, the Climate Change Bill requires authorities piloting waste incentives schemes to take account of groups which may potentially be disadvantaged unduly by the scheme. Authorities would also have the flexibility to decide which households in their area should be covered by the scheme. Where charges are part of a pilot scheme, only those producing the most non-recycled waste would pay more.

We will be developing and consulting widely on guidance for local authorities on how they might take account of disadvantaged groups in designing and running a waste incentive scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with local authorities on the implementation of charges for the collection of household waste. [193143]

Joan Ruddock: As is to be expected with any policy development, my officials and I have rightly had a range of meetings with a variety of stakeholders on the powers provided in the Climate Change Bill for up to five local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of charges for the collection of household waste on the amount of waste placed in waste receptacles other than those associated with the property where the waste was generated. [193279]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot non-revenue raising incentive schemes, which are designed to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

We do not consider that the introduction of pilot schemes should lead to increases in fly-tipping or waste crime. There is a range of powers available to local authorities to ensure that waste is dealt with legitimately, and we would expect them to continue to do so should they pilot a waste incentive scheme. The Government encourage authorities to make good use of the powers available to them, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

Also, as can be seen in the Climate Change Bill, local authorities will be required to have a fly-tipping prevention strategy. We will be working with stakeholders to develop guidance on what the strategy might include.

If residents are concerned about neighbours' placing waste in their bins, the local authority may wish to consider offering lockable bins. Evidence from Flanders, which operates a weight-based scheme, suggests that residents do not regard this type of behaviour as a problem; and take-up of lockable bins is very low. However, the pilots will give us the opportunity to monitor this kind of behaviour and assess what strategies are effective in preventing it.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long he expects the charging for collecting household waste pilots to last; and whether a *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum duration will be set for each pilot. [193286]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot non-revenue raising incentive schemes, which are designed to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

There is no general minimum or maximum duration for the pilots. Schemes will need to be in place for as long as needed in order to gather a solid evidence base to report back to Parliament. Ultimately it will be up to local authorities to come forward with proposals for pilot schemes, and my Department does not want to pre-empt that by specifying now how long each should last. When the Secretary of State designates pilot areas, each designation order will specify a time at which that pilot will end.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he has taken of the conclusions of the research commissioned from Eunomia on variable waste-charging in respect of the consideration by his Department of non-charging options in the guidance issued to the waste authorities running the related pilot schemes; and if he will make a statement. [193296]

Joan Ruddock: My Department carried out a pilot study in England in 2005-06 for reward-only local authority incentives for household waste management. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a comprehensive range of reward schemes in encouraging householders to reduce, recycle and compost their waste. More information is available on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA later commissioned research from Eunomia on variable waste charging, which therefore did not have any impact on the earlier reward-only pilot study.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to take account of the availability of civic amenity sites in *(a)* local authorities running household waste reduction pilots and *(b)* neighbouring local authorities not running such pilots for the disposal of household waste by residents potentially affected by pilot schemes; and if he will make a statement. [193301]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. Residents will remain able to use their civic amenity site in exactly the same way as now. The pilots will allow us to test any impacts of waste incentives on civic amenity sites within the local authority area and in neighbouring local authority areas.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* strategy and *(b)* timetable is for the (i) start and conclusion, (ii) contiguity, (iii) number, (iv) duration and (v) cross-fertilisation of the pilot schemes for charging for the collection of household waste; and if he will make a statement. [193302]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. Councils wishing to pilot schemes will be able to come forward with plans to fit local circumstances which must be approved by the Secretary of State and follow clear guidelines which have been set out in the legislation.

There is no timetable for the introduction of the five pilot household waste incentive schemes (including those which have a charging element) announced last year. However, as stated during the Communities and Local Government Committee's hearing on waste on 17 December 2007, the earliest the pilots are likely to start (including those which have a charging element) is April 2009. The exact timing will be subject to the parliamentary process as well as the implementation timetable for each pilot.

There is no general minimum or maximum duration for the pilots—schemes will need to be in place for as long as needed in order to gather a solid evidence base to report back to Parliament. Ultimately it will be up to local authorities to come forward with proposals for pilot schemes, and my Department does not want to pre-empt that by specifying now how long each should last. When the Secretary of State designates pilot areas, each designation order will specify a time at which that pilot will end. Each of the five pilots could start at different times and run for different lengths of time, according to what is feasible and appropriate for the individual schemes and areas in question.

The pilots will give us the opportunity to learn about the impacts of waste incentive schemes in an English context, and to gather and share best practice.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the *(a)* timing and *(b)* number of further local authorities operating new arrangements for the collection of household waste following the commencement of the initial pilot schemes. [193303]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling.

As can be seen in the Climate Change Bill, after reporting the pilots and if Parliament agrees, the Government will be able to roll out the powers to all waste collection authorities in England to allow them to introduce a waste incentive scheme if they wish.

We have not set a time for making a decision about rolling out the powers. However, we would only do this once we had gathered sufficiently high quality evidence from the pilots.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has allocated to budgetary provision for waste collection authorities to introduce new arrangements for the collection of household waste after the conclusion of the pilot schemes. [193304]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling.

As I said in my written statement to Parliament on 15 November 2007, *Official Report,* columns 72-73WS, we will be providing funding of up to £1.5 million per year for three years to support the pilots, including funding for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

The Government have not allocated any funding at this stage for waste collection authorities to introduce waste incentive schemes, if and when the powers to do so were rolled out to all local authorities in England.

Research commissioned for DEFRA shows that authorities could make overall savings by introducing waste incentive schemes, as a result of having less waste to dispose of. In any case, it would be up to authorities themselves to decide whether or not they wanted to implement a scheme. Therefore, we would not expect them to need funding from Government.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how new arrangements for the collection of household waste will be applied to domestic properties where occupation is forbidden by law. [193308]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill includes powers for up to five local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling.

Ultimately, it is up to local authorities to decide which domestic premises would be covered by a waste incentive scheme. However, where domestic properties cannot be occupied, one would not expect household waste to be generated or collected, and it is therefore unlikely that waste incentives would apply.

Domestic Wastes: Meat

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme have issued on the inclusion of uncooked meat in organic household waste collections. [193154]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), with funding from my Department, has supported a number of local authorities to conduct trials of food waste collections. WRAPROTATE (Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team) has provided advice on the design and roll out of the trials. Although no written guidance has been produced, WRAP's advice to local authorities taking part in the trials or seeking advice from ROTATE, is that if meat (cooked or uncooked) is collected as part of a separate food or organic waste collection service, that waste must be treated at a facility that is approved under the Animal By-Products Regulations.

Food Supply

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the security of the national food supply. [193652]

Hilary Benn: Food security is about ensuring that consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. This requires effective risk management and contingency planning, security of our energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources, and a strong food chain and infrastructure.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider whether the prohibition of on-farm burials for livestock should be removed; and if he will make a statement. [193660]

Jonathan Shaw: I have no plans to remove the prohibition of on-farm burials for livestock.

Recycling: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what local authorities have been funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* WRAP to pilot non-financial incentive schemes to promote recycling. [192185]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA carried out a pilot study in England in 2005-06 of local authority incentives for household waste management, backed by £3.1 million. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a comprehensive range of reward-only schemes in encouraging householders to reduce, recycle and compost their waste. More information is available on the DEFRA website.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has not funded any pilot non-financial incentive schemes to promote recycling.

Rights of Way: Public Transport

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the contribution of public transport links to the implementation of the right to roam. [193661]

Jonathan Shaw: I have held no discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on the contribution of public transport links to the implementation of the right to roam.

Natural England is taking forward the recommendations of the Committee of Public Accounts' 32nd report, which includes considering the provision of more sustainable travel to the natural environment and areas of open countryside. Natural England's aim is to produce a national policy-based action plan by the end of 2008-09.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Prosecutions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in each year since 1981, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* animals affected; and if he will make a statement. [188605]

Joan Ruddock: The table provides details of the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England and Wales for the years 1996 to 2006.

Data for all of the offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for years prior to 1996 are not held by my Department or the Ministry of Justice.

The data with which the Ministry of Justice has provided me cannot separately identify the animals affected unless specified in the Act.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Wildlife Act in England and Wales for the years 1996 to 2006[1,2,3]

		Number proceeded against										
Statute	*Offence Description*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.28P as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch.9	Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.19ZA(8) as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch.12	Falsely pretending, with intent to deceive, to be a wildlife inspector	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.14, S.14(1)(A), and S.21	Other indictable offences not specified elsewhere	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 8	Protection of captive birds	2	8	2	1	6	3	2	—	1	2	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 9	Protection of certain wild animals	6	5	—	3	—	4	4	3	4	7	22
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 11	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals	1	2	3	4	—	2	2	1	—	—	2
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.28Q as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch.9	Change of owner or occupier in area of special scientific interest failing to comply with requirements	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.19ZB(9)(a, b, c) as added by Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch. 12	Intentionally obstructing a wildlife inspector acting in the exercise of the power conferred by ss(3). Failing without reasonable excuse to make available any specimen in accordance with a requirement under ss(2), (4) or (7)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Wildlife Act in England and Wales for the years 1996 to 2006[1,2,3]

		Number proceeded against										
Statute	*Offence Description*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec1	Protection of wild birds	33	36	29	28	23	22	19	29	57	28	95
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1	Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds	9	24	19	14	10	31	10	17	18	16	22
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3	Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3	Protection of the nests and eggs of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3	Illegal entry into bird sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 5	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds	8	8	3	7	5	2	4	3	4	5	4
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 6	Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.	4	2	3	2	4	1	—	1	1		2
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 17	False statements made for obtaining registration or licence etc.	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 7	Registration etc. of certain captive birds	3	2	—	2	2	—	2	2	1	—	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in money outstanding in support payments in cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency was between *(a)* April 2006 and March 2007 and *(b)* each month between April 2006 and March 2007. [183208]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the percentage change in money outstanding in support payments in cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency was between (a) April 2006 and March 2007 and (b) each month between April 2006 and March 2007. [183208]

Information on the amount of debt outstanding is published in table 22 of the quarterly summary of statistics. This shows the outstanding debt balance for 2005/06 was £3.5 billion, which increased to £3.7 billion for 2006/07 an increase of 5.5 per cent. The agency has been successful at reducing the rate of growth from around £23 million per month during 2004/05 to around £20 million per month during 2005/06 to around £16 million per month during 2006/07.

The table below provides the monthly percentage change in debt.

	Debt (£ billion)	*Percentage increase*
April 2006	3.51	0.54
May 2006	3.53	0.55
June 2006	3.55	0.49
July 2006	3.57	0.55
August 2006	3.59	0.51
September 2006	3.60	0.38
October 2006	3.62	0.37
November 2006	3.63	0.40
December 2006	3.65	0.43
January 2007	3.67	0.67
February 2007	3.69	0.44
March 2007	3.69	0.02

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents with outstanding debt with the Child Support Agency are living abroad; and what the total amount was of maintenance owed by non-resident parents living abroad in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [185916]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents with outstanding debt with the Child Support Agency are living abroad; and what the total amount is of maintenance owed by non-resident parents living abroad in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [185916]

At the end of November 2007, there were 5,000 cases on the new computer system (CS2) where a non-resident parent with debt was recorded as living outside the UK. The total debt recorded on these cases was £26,143,000.

No information is available for the number of cases held on the old computer system (CSCS) with outstanding debt where the non-resident parent lives abroad.

Information on the level of debt where the non-resident parent lives outside the UK is not available prior to February 2007.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed with the Child Support Agency is. [185877]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed with the Child Support Agency is. [185877]

Robust information on the length of repayments schedules is not held centrally and to obtain it would involve additional examination of all relevant cases. The information required to answer this question cannot therefore be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Agency has introduced tougher enforcement measures through its Operational Improvement Plan, launched in April 2006. If the Agency cannot secure immediate repayment in full from the non-resident parent, it aims to reach agreements that will see arrears paid back within two years wherever possible.

The Agency collected or arranged almost £975m in maintenance in the twelve months to December 2007, of which just under £116m was arrears. Since April 2006, the Agency has collected over £181m of arrears. The Agency aims to collect over £1bn of maintenance including arrears in 2008/9.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the time taken to pay child support to parents with care whose cases are being dealt with clerically and where maintenance has been paid to the agency by the non-resident parent or via his employer as a result of a deduction from earnings order; and if he will make a statement. [181254]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested:

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the time taken to pay child support to parents with care whose cases are being dealt with clerically and where maintenance has been paid to the Agency by the non-resident parent or via his employer as a result of a deduction from earnings order; and if he will make a statement. [181254]

Child maintenance applications are processed clerically where, due to technical issues, they cannot be advanced on our computer system. Payments received in these cases are paid out normally one day later than non-clerical cases.

However, as can be the case with a manual process, there are some occasions when individual payments require additional investigation to ensure that the right money is passed to the right client.

The Agency takes steps to ensure that the allocation of receipts is strictly controlled, and that delays are kept to an absolute minimum.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of all current Child Support Agency cases have *(a)* been subject to maladministration, *(b)* had incorrect maintenance calculations and *(c)* arrears outstanding; and what proportion of cases are subject to (i) *(a)* and *(b)* above, (ii) *(a)* and *(c)* above, (iii) *(b)* and *(c)* above and (iv) all three conditions above. [185120]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what number and proportion of all current Child Support Agency cases have (a) been subject to maladministration (b) had incorrect maintenance calculations and (c) arrears outstanding; and what proportion of cases are subject to (i) (a) and (b) above (ii) (a) and (c) above (iii) (b) and (c) above and (iv) all three conditions above. [185120]

The Agency does not record information on individual cases in such a way as to allow the analysis you have requested to be carried out. Information concerning maladministration, accuracy of maintenance calculations and outstanding arrears comes from several different information flows, therefore we cannot generate robust data concerning the proportion of cases affected by all three. The Agency can, however, provide the following information, which I hope is of use.

In 2006/07, the Agency made consolatory payments due to maladministration in 15,420 cases.

Between April 2007 and December 2007, a sample of 4,300 cases was checked for accuracy, of which 87% were found to have an assessment which was accurate to the nearest penny. Information on the accuracy of assessments is routinely published in Table 17 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

As at November 2007 there were 1,220,200 current Child Support cases with an assessment or calculation. 781,900 of these cases had debt outstanding. This equates to 64 per cent of the current caseload. Most cases accrue debt once an assessment or calculation has been carried out. The effective date of the assessment or calculation is often backdated and debt accrues from the effective date.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many direct complaints from individuals his Department has received regarding the loss of personal data held by his Department. [185808]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not recorded or collected centrally.

Departmental Internet

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on users of his Department's services of the increased provision of services on the internet; and what assessment he has made of the level of IT literacy of the users of his Department's services. [191927]

Mr. Timms: DWP offers a wide range of services online enabling a large number of our customers to access them in a time and place that is convenient to them.

We know that many of our customers have access to and regularly use the internet, and that this number is growing. We will continue to develop services which meet their needs and to engage customers in the design and delivery of future online services. Customers who do not use the internet will continue to be able to access the Department's services in the conventional way.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the city of Dundee by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [191011]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 bringing together the former Department of Social Security and Employment Service. Information on the number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Department in the City of Dundee at 31 March each year following the Department's formation is in the following table. The table also includes figures as at 31 January 2008, the latest information available.

	Number of FTE[1]
31 March 2002	631
31 March 2003	917
31 March 2004	1,098
31 March 2005	953
31 March 2006	1,038
31 March 2007	976
31 January 2008	946

[1] Figures shown in table are rounded full-time equivalents

Fuel Poverty: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of levels of fuel poverty of people claiming benefits in Hampshire in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [178201]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 and are taken from the fuel poverty indicator dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/.

This shows that there were approximately 32,000 fuel poor households in Hampshire in 2003. A split by the number claiming benefits is not available.

Helping People into Work Strategy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects his Department to pay to private and voluntary sector organisations to deliver services under the Helping People into Work strategy. [191926]

Mr. Timms: Our recently published "Three Year Business Plan 2008-11", which is available in the Library, provides figures for planned expenditure on employment programmes. These figures are in the following table.

Planned expenditure on Department for Work and Pensions employment programmes

	£ million
2008-09	1,351
2009-10	1,367
2010-11	1,381

We anticipate that up to 70 per cent. of this expenditure will be contracted to voluntary and private sector organisations. However, as indicated within our recently published commissioning strategy, which is also available in the Library, the exact amounts are yet to be approved by Ministers.

In Work Credit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the in-work credit to be fully rolled out. [185837]

Mr. Timms: The in-work credit will be rolled out nationally for eligible lone parents on 7 April 2008.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets are set for Jobcentre Plus contact centre telephone operators. [190503]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what targets are set for Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre telephone operators. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus currently has 31 Contact Centres offering telephony services to our customers. The services delivered are:

Jobseeker Direct—individuals can get help finding work;

Employer Direct—where employers can place vacancies with us;

First Contact—where information is collected to support claims to benefit;

National Insurance Number—for customers requiring a NINO;

National Benefit Fraud Hotline—for anyone wishing to report benefit theft; and

Social Fund—customers can call to apply for a crisis loan.

Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres contribute to six national Jobcentre Plus targets:

Job Outcome Target (JOT)—JOT is the measure of our success in helping people in to work. It is based on an automated reporting system, which reports movements into work and off benefit by matching Jobcentre Plus and HMRC data;

Customer Service Target—This measures Jobcentre Plus' performance in meeting the standards and commitments set out in the organisation's customer and employer charters;

Monetary Value of Fraud and Error—Contact Centre Directorate has a direct impact on this target by taking appropriate action when fraud is suspected during interaction with the customer and more specifically through the referrals that are generated from calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline;

Average Actual Clearance Times—is measured through the processing of claims within specified average actual clearance times, for Incapacity benefit, Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance—18 days, 11 days and 12 days respectively;

Employer Outcome Target—is measured through a survey of employers' perceptions of the service they have received from Jobcentre Plus in terms of whether the vacancy was filled, if it was filled within an acceptable time scale and if customers submitted to the vacancies matched the employers' requirements; and

Interventions Delivery Target—is a measure of the efficiency of Jobcentre Plus in booking customers in for work-focused interviews within set timescales to provide effective employment support and advice.

Contact Centres are measured against a range of internal performance indicators which support and underpin the Jobcentre Plus targets. All Contact Centre Customer Service Agents have key work objectives which are put in place to support, contribute and feed into the achievement of the six national Jobcentre Plus targets.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants have been claiming for *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months, *(d)* 18 months, *(e)* two years, *(f)* three years, *(g)* four years and *(h)* five years, including any period for which a person may have been on the New Deal but returned to JSA immediately afterwards; [173755]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people on job seekers allowance who have spent five or more of the last 10 years on out-of-work benefits; [173923]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people on job seekers allowance who have spent *(a)* more than two of the last five years and *(b)* more than two of the last three years on out-of-work benefits. [173924]

Mr. Plaskitt: The additional information on spells on the new deal is not available except at disproportionate costs. Following is a table showing information on continuous spells of claimant unemployment.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants by continuous duration of claim, Great Britain and United Kingdom: November 2007

	Number of claimants:	
Duration of claim	*GB*	*UK*
0 to less than 3 months	372,050	381,630
3 to less than 6 months	152,785	157,015
6 to less than 12 months	117,390	121,245
12 months to less than 18 months	54,430	56,700
18 months to less than 2 years	26,530	27,685
2 years to less than 3 years	18,930	19,430
3 years to less than 4 years	7,790	8,000
4 years to less than 5 years	3,870	3,975
5 years and over	6,785	7,115

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures are based on computer held cases only.
Source:
NOMIS

Of those claimants whose continuous claim exceeds two years about half of the group are made up of those aged 50 plus. Up until April 2007 our customers aged 50 plus were not required to participate in the mandatory intensive activity period when on new deal 25 plus and so a stock of two year plus has built up. We now mandate all our customers to take part, and they will take up training allowances during any activity periods.

A quarter of the group are those who have entered employment zones (EZs). Unlike the mandatory JSA new deals, customers participating in employment zones are not required to participate in full time activity and so need not break the JSA claim. EZ customers remain on JSA throughout the programme either until they leave benefit or they return to the standard JSA regime. It is therefore possible that some of the very hardest to help (despite significant intervention) remain unemployed beyond two years.

A smaller group (about 8,000) are those that have been exempted from taking part in new deal and the mandatory option or intensive activity period (this stage would ordinarily take them from JSA on to a training allowance). Customers are exempted at the discretion of an adviser manager for reasons such as being a potentially violent customer, suffering from a serious drink or drug addiction, have a drink or drug addiction which is improving and progress to work provision is underway or those with mental health issues. The number of exclusions on new deal has increased over recent years. Following the work of a Jobcentre Plus led new deal task and finish group in 2007, the number and reason for exclusions is being more closely monitored.

In regard to all claimants referred to we expect that a proportion of the cases are due to administrative error or a delay in a jobseeker entering provision promptly (for which sanctions can be applied). Jobcentre Plus is continually looking at ways of how we can reduce such error and has made significant in roads to reduce the number of 'overstayers' ie those delaying their progress on new deal, down from 17 per cent. in June 2006, to now less than 5 per cent.

The GP response paper Ready for Work (December 2007) announced the Government's plans for significant changes in the way we help and support our customers back into work:

> A stepped programme of support will be available for all customers from day one.
>
> The successful new deal gateway will be refreshed and introduced for all customers from six months of a claim (bringing that support forward by 12 months for those 25 and over).
>
> All those reaching 12 months unemployment will enter the flexible new deal, receiving intensive support from a specialist provider. During this time with a provider we expect all customers will enter work or participate in some form of full time activity increasing the chances of work.
>
> A high proportion moving into work will reduce the numbers who might otherwise have reached two years. Entering other full time activity will act to prevent the remainder from crossing the two year threshold.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the longest time is a person on jobseekers allowance has spent on holiday. [185888]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* UK, *(b)* EU and *(c)* non-EU citizens between (i) 1 April 2002 and 31 December 2003 and (ii) 1 January 2004 and the most recent date for which figures are available; and which 10 nationalities received the most national insurance numbers in each period. [162349]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested.

The available information is provided as follows:

National insurance number registrations to UK citizens

The majority of UK nationals are registered with national insurance numbers (NINOs) as part of the juvenile registration process just prior to the age of 16. Some UK nationals apply for a NINO as adults and would go through the adult NINO allocation process. The data are not held in a format which allows us to extract a figure for UK nationals.

The number of foreign nationals registered with NINOs does not indicate either the number of migrants coming to the UK or the number of foreign nationals in employment. The national insurance figures count all foreign nationals, including those who stay only briefly. Office for National Statistics immigration statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year. Equally, ONS figures are not restricted to arrivals allocated a NINO, for example, non-working students, and family members not requiring a national insurance number.

Figures for the juvenile registration process are as follows:

Period	*Juvenile registration volumes (thousand)*
2003-04	753.6
2004-05	743.2
2005-06	722.9
2006-07	772.1

Notes:

1. Source data is Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs national insurance recording system (NIRS2) management information.

2. Reporting period for juvenile registration is 1 April to 31 March.

3. For the majority of juveniles the registration process takes place just prior to the 16th birthday. However, some juveniles may initially miss out on this process, but can be recorded as part of this process until the age of 19.

4. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process. These will not appear in the foreign nationals totals for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of juvenile registrations are for UK nationals.

Adult national insurance number registrations to EU and non-EU citizens

The numbers in the following table are sourced from figures already in the public domain. They are published via DWP's National Statistics First Release "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK 2006/07".

Thousand

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
EU	98.6	113.6	200.5	374.3	424.9
Non-EU	249.8	256.4	238.7	287.6	288.1

Notes:

1. Source data is the 100 per cent DWP Extract from the National Insurance Recording System.

2. Annual periods relate to 6 April to 5 April.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.

4. In order to produce a consistent time series, nationality is classified as EU or non-EU according to the country's status in 2006-07.

5. These figures do not include a small number of people (historically between 500 and 800 per year) who are recorded as foreign nationals but whose nationality is unknown.

The top 10 nationalities (excluding UK nationals) with the most adult national insurance number registrations for the latest four years available (2003-04 to 2006-07) are published in table 3 on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which 10 nationalities hold the greatest number of UK national insurance numbers ranked in order of numbers held; how many numbers are held in each case; and what percentage each figure is of the total number of national insurance registrations. [162350]

Mr. Timms: Information on the totality of national insurance numbers held is not available broken down by nationality.

The top 10 nationalities (excluding UK nationals) with the most adult national insurance number registrations for the latest year available (2006-2007) are published in table three on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf.

The total number of national insurance numbers registered in 2006-2007 was 1,539,000. This includes all adult registrations and those registered via the juvenile registration process just prior to age 16. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process, and these will not appear in the foreign nationals total for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of the juvenile registrations are for UK nationals.

It is not possible to provide a direct comparison between the top 10 nationality figures and the total number of national insurance numbers registered because the former figures relate only to adults and some foreign nationals will obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process, for which no nationality breakdown is available. Also, the data for adult foreign nationals and total NINO registrations are derived in different ways and captured over different periods.

The number of foreign nationals registered with NINOs does not indicate either the number of migrants coming to the UK or the number of foreign nationals in employment. The national insurance figures count all foreign nationals, including those who stay only briefly. ONS immigration statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year. Equally, ONS figures are not restricted to arrivals allocated a NINO, for example, non-working students, and family members not requiring a national insurance number.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change was in the number of national insurance registrations issued to *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* foreign citizens in each year since 2002; and what the percentage change was in each period in each category. [162690]

Mr. Timms: *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested.

The available information is provided as follows:

National insurance number registrations to UK citizens

The majority of UK nationals are registered with national insurance numbers (NINOs) as part of the juvenile registration process just prior to the age of 16. Some UK nationals apply for a NINO as adults and would go through the adult NINO allocation process. The data are not held in a format which allows us to extract a figure for UK nationals.

The number of foreign nationals registered with NINOs does not indicate either the number of migrants coming to the UK or the number of foreign nationals in employment. The national insurance figures count all foreign nationals, including those who stay only briefly. Office for National Statistics immigration statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year. Equally, ONS figures are not restricted to arrivals allocated a NINO, for example, non-working students, and family members not requiring a national insurance number.

Figures for the juvenile registration process are in the following table:

Period	Juvenile registration volumes (thousand)	Percentage change
2003-04	753.6	—
2004-05	743.2	-1.4
2005-06	722.9	-2.7
2006-07	772.1	+6.8

Notes:

1. Source data is Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs national insurance recording system (NIRS2) management information.
2. Reporting period for juvenile registration is 1 April to 31 March.
3. For the majority of juveniles the registration process takes place just prior to the 16 birthday. However, some juveniles may initially miss out on this process, but can be recorded as part of this process until the age of 19.
4. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process. These will not appear in the foreign nationals total for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of juvenile registrations are for UK nationals.

Adult national insurance number registrations to foreign citizens

Figures for national insurance numbers registered to foreign nationals under the adult national insurance number process are in the following table. The numbers in the table are sourced from figures already in the public domain. They are published via DWP's National Statistics First Release 'National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK 2006/07'.

Period	Foreign nationals registration volumes (thousand)	Percentage change
2002-03	349.2	—
2003-04	370.7	+6.2
2004-05	439.7	+18.6
2005-06	662.4	+50.6
2006-07	713.5	+7.7

Notes:

1. Source data is the 100 per cent DWP extract from the National Insurance Recording system.
2. Annual periods relate to 6 April to 5 April.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were held by non-UK citizens in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available; and what each figure was as a percentage of total national insurance registrations. [162348]

Mr. Timms: Information on the totality of national insurance numbers held is not available broken down by nationality.

The number of new national insurance number registrations for adult foreign nationals by year of registration for 2002-03 and 2006-07 is published in Table 2 on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf.

No figures are available for 1997

The total number of national insurance numbers registered in 2006-07 was 1,539,000. This includes all adult registrations and those registered via the juvenile registration process just prior to age 16.

It is not possible to provide a direct comparison between the number of national insurance numbers registered to foreign nationals and the total number of national insurance numbers registered because some foreign nationals will obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process and no numbers are available for this. Also, the data for adult foreign nationals and total NINO registrations are derived in different ways and captured over different periods.

The number of foreign nationals registered with NINOs does not indicate either the number of migrants coming to the UK or the number of foreign nationals in employment. The national insurance figures count all foreign nationals, including those who stay only briefly. Office for National Statistics immigration statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year. Equally, ONS figures are not restricted to arrivals allocated a NINO, for example, non-working students, and family members not requiring a national insurance number.

Partnership Agreement

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the partnership agreement between his Department and Citizens Advice signed in September 2007. [185838]

Mrs. McGuire: The partnership agreement is between Jobcentre Plus and Citizens Advice; a copy has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households receiving benefits of in excess of *(a)* £30,000 and *(b)* £25,000 in the most recent year for which figures are available. [181640]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is estimated that there are around 20,000 households receiving either in-work or out-of-work benefits in excess of £30,000 per annum.

It is estimated that there are around 70,000 households receiving either in-work or out-of-work benefits in excess of £25,000 per annum.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, United Kingdom 2005-06

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the findings of the voice risk analysis pilot scheme run by Harrow council in relation to claims for *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit. [193974]

Mr. Plaskitt: Seven local authority sites are currently testing voice risk analysis technology through pilots that are due to finish at the end of March 2008. The results from the local authorities—including Harrow—will be collated and analysed with a view to making the findings available in the summer.

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps a jobseeker is required to take to provide proof that he or she is actively seeking work whilst on holiday; [185886]

(2) what the maximum time is that someone on jobseekers allowance may spend on holiday each year; [185887]

(3) what requirements there are for a person on jobseeker's allowance on holiday to register with their local jobcentre whilst on holiday if it is different from their local jobcentre whilst at their normal residential address. [186122]

Mr. Timms: Jobseekers are allowed to go on holiday in Great Britain for two weeks in a 12-month period without having to actively seek work. As they do not need look for work during this period no proof of jobsearch is required. There is also no requirement for the jobseeker to register with the Jobcentre local to their holiday residence while away.

The jobseeker must remain within Great Britain, must be available for work during their absence and must provide information to Jobcentre Plus before leaving home concerning the duration of the absence and details of how they may be contacted while away. They must also be willing and able to return home immediately to take up a job if one is offered.

A jobseeker may take longer and more frequent holidays in a 12-month period if they wish. However, if a jobseeker takes more than two weeks holiday in a 12-month period, they will have to continue to demonstrate that they are available for and actively seeking work and to attend the Jobcentre local to their holiday residence at least fortnightly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bridging Newcastle Gateshead: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government have contributed through Bridging Newcastle Gateshead to costs for *(a)* the strategic housing staff capacity of the city of Newcastle and *(b)* (i) the EDAW consultancy and (ii) other consultancy costs incurred in (A) the preparation of the north central plan and (B) in relation to the Benwell Scotswood plan. [191626]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Bridging Newcastle Gateshead (BNG) contribution to work on strategic housing capacity in Newcastle city council, by providing financial contributions for the preparation of area action plans, is projected to be £396,566 in the year up to 31 March 2008.

BNG have contributed £200,000 towards the cost of the north central plan that has been led by consultants. This amount is the overall budget and includes costs other than consultancies fees such as the hiring of venues to undertake public consultation.

In relation to the Benwell Scotswood plan, BNG have contributed £227,000 towards the cost of this project that has been led by EDAW. This amount is the overall budget and includes costs other than consultancies fees such as the hiring of venues to undertake public consultation.

Casinos: Manchester

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will allocate funding to Manchester city council for costs incurred in relation to preparation for the regional casino. [192405]

John Healey: The decision to apply to the casino advisory panel was a matter for the local authorities concerned.

Council Housing: Overcrowding

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department and its agencies have made of the level of overcrowding in social housing; and what statistical measures are used to quantify that level. [194507]

Mr. Iain Wright: Levels of overcrowding are measured through the Survey of English Housing and assessed against the "bedroom standard", based on the ages and composition of a household. The 'Survey of English Housing Preliminary Results: 2006-07' were published on 18 December 2007

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sehprelimresults0607

Table 9 indicates that the rate of overcrowding in the social rented sector is 5.8 per cent. across England.

In December, the Department published 'Tackling overcrowding in England: an action plan' to assist local authorities in developing their own strategies to tackle overcrowding.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 117W, on ipsos MORI, if she will place in the Library a copy of the research on post implementation of home information packs; [191635]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 781, to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield, on home information packs, whether Ipsos MORI has provided an interim report or initial conclusions to her Department. [191671]

Caroline Flint: The home information pack area trials—research report was published on 6 March 2008. Copies are available in Library of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W, on home information packs, whether the unique property reference number (UPRN) used to identify a property in a home condition report is the same UPRN used to identify a property by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* the National and Land Property Gazetteer. [191670]

Caroline Flint: The Valuation Office Agency and National Land and Property Gazetteer have their own unique reference property numbers, which are not the same as those generated by the home information pack register.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the home information pack redress scheme has received since it was established; how many of these have been upheld; and if she will make a statement. [192629]

Caroline Flint: Communities and Local Government does not hold data on the number of complaints made to home information pack redress schemes. Such data will be included in each scheme's annual report.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many estate agents have been fined for non-compliance with the home information pack regulations since the packs became mandatory; and if she will make a statement. [192630]

Caroline Flint: Local authority weights and measures authorities and the Office of Fair Trading are responsible for enforcing the home information pack duties through s.166 and s.175 of the Housing Act 2004. The OFT has not received notice of any penalty charges having been served.

Home Information Packs: Eco-Towns

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether home information packs will apply to the sale of houses built in eco-towns. [190513]

Caroline Flint: Yes.

Housing: Low Incomes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to monitor the proportion of affordable housing to be delivered on sites which have recently been granted planning permission by local authorities bidding to be housing growth points; and if she will ensure that account is taken of this proportion when decisions are made on the bids. [192483]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* Data for sites granted planning permission for affordable housing are not collected centrally although statistics which show the numbers of affordable dwellings built are available. Affordability is a key emerging priority for many areas and we would expect this to inform local authority proposals for growth point status.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, on housing: low incomes, what the current average annual percentage rate (APR) equivalent interest rate on the non-shared equity element of the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme is; whether the APR varies according to the size of the borrower's deposit; and whether the APR is variable, capped or fixed; [193775]

(2) whether there is a *(a)* mortgage indemnity guarantee and *(b)* arrangement fee charged on the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme; [193776]

(3) on what multiple of *(a)* a single person's income and *(b)* a couple's discount, the maximum amount that may be lent is calculated under the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme; [193778]

(4) how much the early redemption penalty for the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme is; and in what circumstances the penalty applies. [193779]

Caroline Flint: The questions do not relate to our low cost home ownership policy. They are in relation to loans offered by a mortgage lender.

The Yorkshire Building Society should be contacted for the detailed information requested.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield, of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, on housing: low incomes, what *(a)* minimum borrowers' deposit is required and *(b)* maximum loan to value is allowed under the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme. [193777]

Caroline Flint: No borrower's deposit is required under the Yorkshire Building Society Expanded Open Market Homebuy scheme. The maximum loan to value allowed under the scheme is 100 per cent.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed purchases there have been under the Open Market Homebuy Government Loan Only scheme to date. [193785]

Caroline Flint: Since the Open Market HomeBuy scheme was launched in April 2006, we have helped over 4,600 householders into home ownership.

Since July 2007, there have been 861 completed sales under the Open Market HomeBuy Government Loan Only scheme, to the end of February 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum loan to value ratio is, including the shared equity borrowing permitted, in *(a)* Open Market Homebuy and *(b)* Extended Open Market Homebuy. [193940]

Caroline Flint: The maximum loan to value ratio permitted under all the Open Market HomeBuy products, including the shared equity element, is 100 per cent.

Housing: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is expected to be spent on bringing homes up to the decent homes standard in the next three years. [191768]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for local authorities and registered social landlords to determine what they spend on making homes decent using all the resources available to them. The Government make available funding for capital investment purposes.

The resources made available for the next three years from the comprehensive spending review 2007 that local authorities can use to deliver decent homes are in the following table. Final allocations for each year have yet to be determined.

	Funding
Gap funding for RSLs to support stock transfer	£240 million
ALMO supported capital expenditure	£2.4 billion
Regional housing pot: local authority improvements to, and regeneration of, existing stock (both local authority owned and in the private sector)	£2 billion

In addition local authorities will make use of the allowances for major repairs that are provided through the annual housing revenue account subsidy determination. In 2008-09 this is £1,317 million.

Local authorities have powers to assist vulnerable households living in the very worst conditions by developing flexible approaches to respond to locally specific conditions, and to find ways to make their resources go further through the use of loans and equity release schemes.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new homes built since 2003 meet the Government's targets for sustainability on *(a)* energy use and *(b)* water use. [191191]

Mr. Iain Wright: Building Control is a devolved service undertaken by local authorities and other building control bodies. Independent data on the levels of compliance achieved by individual homes that have been signed off by building control bodies is not kept centrally and it is not therefore possible to verify the absolute levels of compliance.

In relation to regulatory requirements on energy use, an implementation review of the 2006 amendments to part L of the building regulations will be undertaken shortly and will help to inform future amendments to the building regulations in this respect.

There are currently no requirements in building regulations for water efficiency, but the Government have committed to bringing new requirements into force for new homes during 2009. In December 2006, CLG and DEFRA issued a consultation on introducing minimum requirements for water efficiency in new buildings. The consultation gave a strong endorsement for the adoption of a performance standard for new homes to be administered through the building regulations. The standard will be set at 125 litres per person per day.

The code for sustainable homes sets out standards, above the regulatory minimum, for the sustainability of new homes including energy and water. The code provides a means for house builders to differentiate their products, however, there is no national obligation for privately funded developments to be built to the code. Publicly funded homes must be built to code level 3. There are currently 395 registered developments that are building to the code, covering around 30,000 homes.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further plans her Department has for allowing further areas where two-tier local authorities exist to convert to unitary authorities. [188320]

John Healey: We have no plans for any further programme of invitations to councils to submit unitary proposals. However, we recognise that in some specific cases in the future there might be areas where circumstances are such as to warrant a focused and targeted invitation to the councils concerned, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 allows for this.

Local Strategic Partnerships: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will meet Chorley borough council and the hon. Member for Chorley to discuss the local strategic partnership; [192422]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that *(a)* Chorley borough council and *(b)* the Chorley local strategic partnership consults the hon. Member for Chorley on future activities of the local strategic partnership. [192423]

John Healey: I have asked my officials to meet with my hon. Friend to discuss Chorley's local strategic partnership (LSP) and its contribution to the successful targeting and co-ordination of services.

The Government's consultation on the future of LSPs (2005-06) emphasised the key role hon. Members could play in LSPs. It stated that:

> 'MPs have substantial democratic legitimacy in the local area and the ability to bring a wide range of partners to the table to produce genuinely collaborative working. There is no set way to do this and current practice varies between the MP chairing the LSP to receiving papers and attending an annual event. Each area will need to consider the most appropriate mechanism for them'.

London Development Agency

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Audit Commission's scrutiny of *(a)* the London Development Agency and *(b)* the Greater London Authority. [191648]

John Healey: It is the responsibility of the district auditor to consider whether financial and accounting matters relating to the GLA and LDA need investigation and action.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Lavatories

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 963W, how many public conveniences were registered for business rates by the Valuation Office Agency in each Government region at the most recent date for which figures are available. [193929]

John Healey: As at 30 January 2008, there were 5,084 public conveniences included in the 2005 rating lists for England and Wales.

Government region	*Number of public conveniences*
East Midlands	367
East of England	530
London	385
North East	217
North West	457
South East	741
South West	926
West Midlands	381
Yorkshire and Humberside	424
Wales	656
Total	5,084

The figures do not include certain public conveniences, for instance those that are ancillary to public parks.

Planning Permission: Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to monitor the proportion of affordable housing planned for sites recently granted planning permission by local authorities bidding to be housing growth points; and if she will ensure that account is taken of this proportion when decisions are made on the bids. [192445]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data for sites granted planning permission for affordable housing are not collected centrally although statistics which show the numbers of affordable dwellings built are available. Affordability is a key emerging priority for many areas and we would expect this to inform local authority proposals for growth point status.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning policy *(a)* statements and *(b)* guidance have been issued by her Department and its predecessors on the construction of new prisons since May 1997. [193831]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since May 1997, three extant publications have specifically referred to prison development. These are:

> Circular 03/98 (DETR): 'Planning for Future Prison Development' includes the effect on local and unitary development plans, site selection, security and economic and other benefits.
>
> Circular 02/06 (Communities and Local Government): 'Crown Application of the Planning Acts' describes how the planning Acts apply to the Crown with the ending of Crown immunity in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Prisons are mentioned as part of the operational land of the Home Office (now Ministry of Justice) in the context of new Crown permitted development rights.
>
> Planning Policy Statement 25: 'Development and Flood Risk' (Communities and Local Government), published in 2006. This classes prisons as more vulnerable to flood risk, which means that the PPS25 exception test should be applied if a prison is essential in an area of high flood risk to ensure it is safe.

Although prison development is not specifically mentioned elsewhere, since the removal of Crown immunity in 2006, prison development should be considered in the context of the national planning policy framework.

Private Sector: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methods she plans to use in future to assess the efficacy of private sector investment in the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [191593]

Caroline Flint: The Government are not in a position to directly regulate private sector investment in the Thames Gateway except where the investment is part of a project being supported by the public sector. In these cases we would expect projects to have a clear fit with the Thames Gateway strategy and priorities in the Thames Gateway delivery plan, and be subject to a proper investment appraisal in line with the Treasury Green Book. Where appropriate, private sector development is subject to the normal land use planning regime.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the Guarantee of Assured Progression in respect of further education in the Pan Gateway Skills Plan in the Thames Gateway area; if she will make a statement. [191948]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* All universities and colleges in the Thames Gateway are committed to participation in the Gateway Guarantee of Assured Progression scheme. We expect to launch across Departments the second stage of a feasibility study this spring which will look at progression from level 2 to level 3.

Our aim is that every course in the Thames Gateway, particularly but not exclusively at vocational level 3, will lead directly to a place on an appropriate level 4 course.

Already a number of these progression agreements exist formally and informally but using Lifelong Learning Networks and other relevant partner networks our aim is to roll out a series of comprehensive transparent progression pathway options for every student achieving level 2 and above.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will attend future meetings of the Thames Gateway parliamentary group; and if she will make a statement. [191949]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* In my new role as Minister with responsibility for Thames Gateway I am looking forward to engaging with hon. Members who have constituencies within the Thames Gateway boundary. This will include attendance at future meetings of the Thames Gateway parliamentary group.

Rental Rights: Leasehold

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide leaseholders whose freehold landlord is a public authority with the same leasehold rights as those with private sector landlords. [192400]

Mr. Iain Wright: Leaseholders have a wide range of rights and protections that have been developed over the last 40 years. Significant improvements have been made to these rights through the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002. The majority of the rights and protections apply equally to leaseholders with social sector landlords as to those with private sector landlords. However, there are some necessary exceptions and variations.

Social sector landlords are primarily responsible for the provision of social housing. Their systems and arrangements are set up in order to achieve this and to comply with specific legislation in that regard, while recognising their obligations to leaseholders. This is one of the many factors that need to be taken into account when considering how best to frame leaseholder rights so that they can effectively deliver the benefits intended to all concerned. This can mean that it will not always be appropriate or helpful to make identical provisions for social sector and private sector leaseholders in order to provide them with similar rights and protections.

Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process is followed for the appointment of members of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee; and what criteria are used to appoint members. [193367]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee currently consists of nine members. Seven of those members are members of the corporation's board, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. They were appointed to the planning committee by the chairman of the corporation.

Two members of the planning committee are co-opted and are not members of the corporation's board. They were appointed by the chairman of the board with the consent of the Secretary of State, following an appointment process involving advertising the position, short listing and interviews.

The criteria used for the interviews were:

Motivation/understanding the challenges/opportunities of the role;

Committee contribution/adding value;

Technical/professional contribution.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, which local authorities which were in receipt of *(a)* either Deprived Areas Funding or Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and *(b)* both types of funding will receive Working Neighbourhood Funding but at a lower cash level per year. [189402]

John Healey: The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund was set up as a time limited fund and was provided to deliver a different set of objectives from those to be delivered by the new Working Neighbourhoods Fund. The following list of local authorities were in receipt of either Deprived Areas Funding or Neighbourhood Renewal Funding or both types of funding, and will receive Working Neighbourhoods Fund at a lower cash level in 2008-09 than their 2007-08 allocation.

Newham
Manchester
Birmingham
Tower Hamlets
Hackney
Southwark
Nottingham
Liverpool
Bradford
Sandwell
Islington
Lambeth
Haringey
Kingston upon Hull
Middlesbrough
Knowsley
Greenwich
Sheffield
Waltham Forest
Leicester
Salford
South Tyneside
Doncaster
North East Lincolnshire
Newcastle upon Tyne
Halton
Rochdale
Walsall
Brent
Oldham
Barking and Dagenham
Wolverhampton
Easington
Wear Valley
Gateshead
Stockton-on-Tees
Bolton
Hartlepool
Blackburn with Darwen
Derwentside
St. Helens
Preston
Burnley
Bolsover

Working Neighbourhoods Fund: Leeds

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will meet hon. Members representing constituencies in the Leeds city council area to discuss working neighbourhood funding allocations for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [191131]

John Healey: I have already discussed the matter with hon. Members representing constituencies in the Leeds city council area and offered to meet them to discuss both the working neighbourhoods fund methodology and how the funding going into Leeds in the next three years can be used to improve jobs and skills opportunities for people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the civil service appeal board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192518]

Mr. Watson: Statistics on numbers of appeals heard in individual Departments and agencies for each of the last 10 years can be found in appendix 2 of each of the civil service appeal board's annual reports. These are available on the board's website at:

http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

The Cabinet Office does not centrally record information on appeal cases, and so the information requested on the outcome of the appeal, compensation awards or cases of reinstatement could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what guidance has been issued on the use of official residences by former Ministers of the Crown; and what liability such individuals have for meeting associated costs; [193174]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on the council tax liabilities of Ministers in official residences in the last 12 months. [193176]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The ministerial code provides guidance on the use of official residences. Arrangements are in place to ensure that Ministers who are allocated official residences are provided with guidance on their council tax liability. In addition, Ministers who are allocated official residences pay tax on ancillary services associated with the residences, which are provided for use in the private part of the accommodation and which constitute a taxable benefit in kind.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in the Prime Minister's Office staying overnight in (A) mainland Great Britain, (B) Northern Ireland, (C) the Republic of Ireland and (D) other countries in the last 12 months. [193541]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by the Cabinet Office in each of the last three years. [191527]

Mr. Watson: The numbers of staff, over the age of 55, that have been recruited by the Cabinet Office in each of the last three financial years are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff*
2007-08	10
2006-07	9
2005-06	6

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193558]

Mr. Watson: In the Cabinet Office, 138 members of staff (9 per cent. of the total number of staff on the Cabinet Office payroll) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has increased to 176 members of staff (13 per cent. of the total number of staff on the Cabinet Office payroll) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183875]

Mr. Watson: We have no specific policy on purchasing fairtrade products. However, we actively encourage our total facilities management provider to purchase fairtrade products for all retail sale and hospitality purposes, where commercially and practically viable.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many reports of incidents involving those working in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* 10 Downing street were made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to date. [191081]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is as follows.

	Cabinet Office	*10 Downing street*
April 2005 to March 2006	5	0
April 2006 to March 2007	1	1
April 2007 to date	1	0

This information is provided on a financial year, i.e. April to March, and not on a calendar basis, i.e. January to December.

Joint Ministerial Committee on Devolution

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Joint Ministerial Committee on Devolution last met; and if he will make a statement. [193968]

Edward Miliband: In 2001, the UK Government and the three devolved administrations agreed to participate in a Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) consisting of UK Government, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Ministers.

It is established practice not to disclose the details, including the dates, of Cabinet Committees.

Official Residences: Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) who occupies, or was the most recent occupier of, each official ministerial residence in Admiralty House; [189521]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 246W, on Admiralty House, which Minister occupies or last occupied the flat with one or two bedrooms; and which Ministers occupy or last occupied the two flats with three or four bedrooms; [189577]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 490W, on Official Residences: Admiralty House, what the floor area is of each of the three ministerial flats in Admiralty House; and what the current or most recent occupier is of each. [189578]

Mr. Watson: One flat in Admiralty House is currently occupied. My right hon. Friend Lord Malloch-Brown occupies the flat which has three or four bedrooms depending on the configuration adopted. The other two flats are currently unoccupied. The last occupants of the flats were my right hon. Friend the former Lord Chancellor (Lord Falconer), who used the flat with one or two bedrooms depending on the configuration adopted, for official entertaining and other engagements, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) who used the flat with three or four bedrooms depending on the configuration adopted. The floor areas of the flats are 293 sq m, 325 sq m and 241 sq m respectively.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the proportion of children *(a)* under five years, *(b)* of primary school age and *(c)* of secondary school age who will have access to child care if required between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. and for 48 weeks a year in (i) England and (ii) each local authority in (A) 2007-08, (B) 2008-09 and (C) 2009-10. [192930]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not available in the form requested.

Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006, which came into force in April 2007, placed a duty on local authorities to complete a child care sufficiency assessment before April 2008. They will have to complete an assessment at least every three years, and keep it under review between assessments, especially where there are key demographic changes or as new data becomes available.

The assessment process will give local authorities the evidence and information they need to facilitate and shape a child care market that is flexible, sustainable and responsive to parents' needs. It will also help local authorities to develop their strategies for meeting the new duty to secure sufficient child care which will start in April 2008.

Tables 1 to 3 provide information about population estimates for each local authority area for the years 2008-10 have been placed in the House Libraries. From April 2008 local authorities will need to secure sufficient child care places for working parents of these children.

Children: Disabled

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of disabled children who are waiting for *(a)* assessment and *(b)* reassessment in relation to direct payments, in each local authority area. [174563]

Kevin Brennan: There is no information collected or estimates made regarding the number of disabled children waiting for *(a)* assessment or *(b)* reassessment for direct payments. However, data are collected on the number of disabled children aged 16-17, and the number of carers of disabled children, receiving direct payments at 31 March each year. The most recent data available are for 31 March 2006, and show that 649 children and 4,170 carers were receiving these payments in England. These data are also available by local authority, and have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Children's Commissioner for England: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget is for the office of the Children's Commissioner for England in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [186748]

Beverley Hughes: The current budget is a matter for 11 Million (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner). Rob Williams, the chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with information about the current financial year and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library. The budget for the next two financial years has yet to be finalised.

Letter from Rob Williams, dated 13 March 2008:

I have been asked by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to write to you in response to parliamentary question numbers 186751 and number 186748.

I have enclosed a copy of our annual report for the years 2006-07 which contains financial details from our inception until March 2007, which contains financial details from our inception until March 2007.

For 2007-08 and 2008-09 the figures are:

Analysis of budget breakdown 11 MILLION 2007 to 2009

£

	2007-08 budget	*2008-09 draft budget*
Projects	2,432,345	2,183,402
Office and administration costs	238,696	252,396
Premises including rent	270,283	271,438
Depreciation and cost of capital	377,052	360,848
Total budget	3,318,378	3,068,084

I hope this answers your question. If you think it would be helpful I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss the work we have been doing and to talk through with you our work plan for the coming financial year.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will give a breakdown of the expenditure by the office of the Children's Commissioner in England by main budget heading since inception of the office. [186751]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for 11 Million (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner). Rob Williams, the chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with information about the current financial year and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

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Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192439]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Transport.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192051]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor spending on pot plants for its headquarters buildings including maintenance and rental over the last five years is broken down as follows:

	£000
2003-04	40.5
2004-05	36.6
2005-06	53.7
2006-07	42.6
2007-08	78.3

Disadvantaged: Crime

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what analysis his Department has made of the Institute of Education research indicating a correlation between educational inequality and crime; and if he will make a statement. [193056]

Kevin Brennan: This research was conducted by the DCSF-funded Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning (WBL), based at the Institute of Education. It is part of a body of research we have supported over the last eight years focusing on the impact of education, and its distribution, on societal well-being and social cohesion.

Addressing the distribution of social outcomes created by lack of opportunity has been, and remains, a key objective for Government. The Children's Plan, recently published by the Department, restates the need to close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families, alongside achieving world class standards. As an outcome of last year's comprehensive spending review, Government have announced a public sector agreement to

> "Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers"

(PSA 11). This PSA has stretching performance indicators associated with closing the gaps at each age stage of learning. By closing the gap in educational attainment we expect not only to deliver more fairness in opportunity to individuals, but to benefit the quality of society too, measured by indicators such as the incidence of crime.

Information Officers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people worked in his Department's press office and those of its predecessor departments in each year since 2004-05. [176819]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and employs the full time equivalent of 20 press officers.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties have received a fixed period exclusion in the last 12 months; [192623]

(2) how many and what proportion of those secondary school pupils who received a fixed period exclusion in the last 12 months were eligible for free school meals. [192628]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Pupils: Hearing Impaired

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hearing impaired pupils are taught in *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* special maintained schools. [193378]

Kevin Brennan: Information from the school census shows that, in January 2007 in England, there were 6,570 hearing impaired pupils in maintained primary schools, 5,670 such pupils in maintained secondary schools and 1,610 such pupils in all special schools. These figures refer to those who have hearing impairment as primary need and cover those at School Action Plus and with special educational needs statements. They exclude general hospital schools and dually registered pupils.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184691]

Kevin Brennan: No complaints of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination were made by staff in my Department during 2007.

The Department does not have any executive agencies.

Sure Start Programme: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received services from Sure Start in West Lancashire constituency in each year since the programme's inception. [193951]

Beverley Hughes: There are five Sure Start children's centres up and running in West Lancashire offering services to 2,818 children under five and their families. We do not collect data centrally on the number of children accessing Sure Start services each year.

Vocational Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the comparative returns to the economy of *(a)* uncertified employer purchased training and *(b)* low level vocational qualification bearing education and training; and if he will make a statement. [174261]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

There is insufficient data on uncertified employer purchased training, and its link to wages, employment and productivity, to allow such a comparison to be carried out. From our research on national vocational qualifications level 2 qualifications however, we do know that vocational qualifications can provide higher returns when they are delivered through the workplace, particularly for men[1].

The Department will continue to monitor the returns to education and training, both through commissioned research and through internal analysis of data. It is vital that we gain as full an understanding as possible of the returns to training and qualifications. This will enable us to make sure that the qualifications we deliver in future provide economically valuable skills for individuals, employers and the economy as a whole, and help us to achieve the ambitions for a high-skilled work force set out in the Leitch report on skills.

[1] See Dearden et al (2000): The returns to Academic, Vocational and Basic Skills in Britain. Skills Task Force Research Paper 20, and Jenkins et al (2007): The Returns to Qualifications in England, Updating the Evidence Base on Level 2 and Level 3 Vocational Qualifications. CEE Discussion Paper No. 89.

Youth Services: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided to Enfield council for youth services in each of the last 10 years; and what the real terms change was from each year to the next. [190258]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities decide what should be spent, taking into account Government policy and local needs. The following table shows how much Enfield has decided to allocate in the last nine years, in both cash and real terms. Data is not available from before 1999-2000.

Budgeted net expenditure by Enfield on youth services

£

	Cash terms	Real terms
1999-2000	999,000	1,188,394
2000-01	986,108	1,156,589
2001-02	1,052,333	1,205,408
2002-03	1,121,647	1,245,818
2003-04	1,355,382	1,463,032
2004-05	1,440,161	1,512,774
2005-06	1,518,136	1,561,692
2006-07	1,648,564	1,648,564
2007-08	2,023,600	1,959,903

Notes:

1. Cash terms figures are converted to real terms (2006-07 prices) using the December 2007 gross domestic product (GDP) deflators.
2. 2007-08 data remains provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

Youth Services: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided to Tamworth borough council for youth services in each of the last 10 years; and what the real terms change was each year. [193618]

Kevin Brennan: Children's services funding is distributed to local (education) authorities and as such we are unable to provide any figures specifically for Tamworth borough council. The figures provided in this answer are for the whole of Staffordshire local authority (of which Tamworth is a subsection).

The Department do not provide any funding to local authorities which is specifically ring fenced to be spent on youth services. It is left up to the individual local authorities to decide locally how much of their overall funding they want to allocate for youth services based on their own individual local needs and circumstances, and as such, included in the following table is how much Staffordshire local authority has spent on its youth services in the last eight years (1999-2000 to 2006-07). We do not have comparable figures prior to the introduction of section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

Net current expenditure by Staffordshire local authority on youth services for 1999-2000 to 2006-07

	Cash terms		Real terms (2006-07 prices)	
	£	Percentage change from previous year	£	Percentage change from previous year
1999-2000	5,198,224	n/a	6,183,724	n/a
2000-01	5,426,754	4.4	6,364,947	2.9
2001-02	5,619,168	3.5	6,436,545	1.1
2002-03	5,330,832	(5.1)	5,920,975	(8.0)
2003-04	5,731,777	7.5	6,187,018	4.5
2004-05	6,147,428	7.3	6,457,382	4.4
2005-06	6,587,558	7.2	6,776,556	4.9
2006-07	7,802,989	18.5	7,802,989	15.1

n/a = Figures not available.

Notes:

1. Financial data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DCSF (formally DFES). 2002-03 saw a break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank row. Comparable figures are not available prior to the introduction of section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.
2. 2006-07 data are subject to change by the local authority.
3. Cash terms figures are converted to real terms (2006-07 prices) using the December 2007 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators.
4. Figures as reported by Staffordshire local authority as at 10 March 2008.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 516W, on adult education: finance, what the funding for adult education provision was in each of the last five years, broken down by programme. [192459]

Bill Rammell: The departmental annual report 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills sets out adult funding provided through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 2001-02 to 2005-06 based on the LSC published accounts. The following table provides an extract from the DAR showing adult participation funding for further education, Train to Gain, 19+ work-based learning and personal and community development learning programmes. Other funding for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, University for Industry/learn direct, capital and learner support is not broken down by age so is not included in the table.

Extract from table 8.9—Breakdown of expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council within departmental expenditure limit 2001-02 to 2005-06

Outturn (£ million)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
19+ Further Education	1,692	1,695	1,882	1,902	2,011
Train to Gain/Employer Training Pilot	n/a	7	33	89	142
19+ Workbased Learning	154	211	213	243	232
Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)	153	194	225	237	229
Adults Total	1,999	2,107	2,353	2,471	2,614

Source:
DfES departmental annual report 2007

Further information on the breakdown of adult funding for the period 2005-06 to 2010-11 is provided in table 5 of the Public Accounts Committee report 'Sustainable employment: supporting people to stay in work and advance' published on 27 February 2008. The presentation of this information is consistent with the 2008-09 LSC grant letter published on 16 November which reflects the introduction of the adult learner and employer responsive funding models from 2008-09. A copy of the PAC report is available in the House Library.

Construction: Vocational Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people joining the construction industry via the National Skills Academy for Construction he estimates will be *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* citizens of countries in the European Union and *(c)* citizens of countries from outside the European Union. [179059]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council's statement of priorities 2008-11 published on 16 November 2007 sets out the Government's funding strategy over this period. The Government recognise that more has to be done to raise the employability of unskilled British workers and our funding strategy supports that. The training places announced on the 16 November are aimed at the people in the British work force who do not currently have the skills to be competitive in the future. It is reasonable to expect that UK citizens will take up the vast majority of these training places.

Although there are no nationality estimates for the learners that will benefit from the National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfc), ConstructionSkills, the sector skills council that is leading on the development of the NSAfc, is undertaking survey work to look at the mobility of labour more generally in the construction sector and will be publishing a report later in the year.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192381]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 8W.

Further Education: Foundation Degrees

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many further education colleges have applied for foundation degree awarding powers since July 2007; and how many of such applications were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [193374]

Bill Rammell: None. The new powers that will enable further education colleges to apply for powers to award their own foundation degrees come into force on 1 May.

The Quality Assurance Agency is, through consultation, developing detailed guidance for applicants. It is also running a series of 'road shows' to provide information to potential applicants in an informal setting.

Graduates: Personal Records

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what personal details his Department holds on graduates who received their degrees since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [186617]

Bill Rammell: Under the terms of terms of a formal agreement with the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) the Department has access to information on graduates who successfully complete their courses each year. The data include personal information on family name, forenames, family name on 16th birthday, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, disability, nationality, socio-economic background, and home postcode. In addition, for students domiciled in Northern Ireland and studying in Northern Ireland, information is available on religion, marital status, and whether they have dependents, and for Welsh domiciled students studying in Wales, whether they are Welsh speakers.

Higher Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many university places were offered to applicants resident in Essex in each of the last five years; [185306]

(2) how many applications were made to universities by people resident in Essex in each of the last five years. [185307]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures from UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), showing the number of students who applied and the number who were accepted for entry, are shown in the table.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses from Essex local authority. UK higher education institutions, years of entry 2003 to 2007

Year of entry	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*
2003	7,681	6,413
2004	7,782	6,483
2005	8,615	7,095
2006	8,092	6,591
2007	8,762	7,181

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of students who applied for university from a *(a)* state comprehensive school, *(b)* state grammar school, *(c)* state secondary modern school, *(d)* other state secondary school, *(e)* further education college, *(f)* state sixth form college and *(g)* independent school or college accepted a place at university in each of the last four years for which figures are available; [189264]

(2) what proportion of students from a *(a)* state comprehensive school, *(b)* state grammar school, *(c)* state secondary modern school, *(d)* other state secondary school, *(e)* further education college, *(f)* state sixth form college and *(g)* independent school or college accepted a place at university in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [189265]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures from UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) showing the proportion of applicants who were accepted for entry are shown in the table.

Information on the proportion of all students at each type of school who were accepted for entry by local authority is not held centrally.

English domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK by previous school type year of entry 2004 to 2007

Previous school type	*Year of entry*	*Applicants*	*Accepted applicants*	*Proportion of accepted applicants (percentage)*
Comprehensive School	2004	74,336	63,749	85.8
	2005	80,653	70,454	87.4
	2006	83,578	70,529	84.4
	2007[1]	100,396	84,267	83.9
Grammar School	2004	12,434	11,127	89.5
	2005	13,330	12,056	90.4
	2006	13,067	11,558	88.5
	2007[1]	19,762	17,466	88.4
Other Maintained[2]	2004	21,935	18,948	86.4
	2005	23,572	20,740	88.0
	2006	22,620	19,435	85.9
	2007[1]	1,820	1,533	84.2
Further/Higher Education	2004	84,671	65,931	77.9
	2005	86,709	68,228	78.7
	2006	100,478	75,985	75.6
	2007[1]	110,098	82,906	75.3
Sixth Form College	2004	39,151	33,792	86.3
	2005	43,329	37,971	87.6
	2006	44,129	37,597	85.2
	2007[1]	48,662	41,400	85.1
Independent School	2004	32,583	28,303	86.9
	2005	32,577	28,765	88.3
	2006	32,376	27,754	85.7
	2007[1]	34,277	29,215	85.2
Other	2004	3,748	3,080	82.2
	2005	4,216	3,433	81.4
	2006	4,447	3,538	79.6
	2007[1]	5,777	4,700	81.4
Unknown	2004	71,109	52,149	73.3
	2005	84,415	60,151	71.3
	2006	57,372	42,833	74.7
	2007[1]	59,285	45,472	76.7
Total	2004	339,967	277,079	81.5
	2005	368,801	301,798	81.8
	2006	358,067	289,229	80.8
	2007[1]	380,077	306,959	80.8

[1] In 2007 schools in the other maintained category were re-allocated to other categories and this is the reason for the large drop in numbers in the other maintained category. Therefore figures for 2007 are not directly comparable to earlier years.
[2] The other maintained type covers other maintained and sixth form centres.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Students: Grants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university students receive *(a)* grants and *(b)* full grants. [180442]

Bill Rammell: Available data are shown in the table.

Number of students receiving grants[1,2], students domiciled in England studying in the UK, academic year 2006-07[3]

	Number (thousand)[4]
Students in receipt of a full grant	222
Students in receipt of a partial grant	96
Students in receipt of a nil grant	453
Total[5]	770

[1] Figures cover the Higher Education Grant (HEG), Maintenance Grant and the Special Support Grant.
[2] Data do not include tuition fee remission grants or supplementary grants and allowances; e.g. for students with disabilities, students with dependents, single parent students, those incurring certain travel costs and those who have recently left care.
[3] Latest year for which complete data are available.
[4] Student numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.
[5] Excludes those students who do not apply to the SLC for any financial support.
[6] Constituent parts may not add to total due to rounding.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC).

The means-tested higher education grant (HEG) of up to £1,000 was introduced for new students in academic year 2004-05. In 2006-07 the HEG was replaced for new students by the maintenance grant and special support grant. A maximum of £2,700 (£2,765 in 2007-08) was available subject to means-testing.

Income thresholds for grant entitlement are being changed for students who will be entering higher education in or after September 2008. The income threshold for full entitlement to the maintenance grant is being increased to £25,000 (compared with £17,910 in 2007-08). The threshold for entitlement to a partial maintenance grant is increasing from £38,330 in 2007-08 to £60,005 for 2008-09. We estimate that the increased thresholds will mean that one-third of all students in England entering higher education in 2008-09 will receive a full non-repayable grant, while another one-third will receive a partial grant.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on administrative costs of requiring students to have an identity card to apply for a student loan; and if he will make a statement. [192337]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to require students to have an ID card to apply for a student loan or any other form of student support, therefore no estimates of the cost have been made.

The policy on the introduction of identity cards on a voluntary basis rests with the Home Office. Currently either a passport or a birth certificate (accompanied by an identity confirmation form signed by a person of good standing) is required as proof of identity for students applying for a Government student loan. We have no current plans to change this, although the process for verifying the identity of applicants is kept under review.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many recipients of *(a)* student loans and *(b)* education maintenance allowance there are in Bassetlaw constituency, broken down by ward. [193299]

Bill Rammell: The information requested on student loans is not available at constituency or ward level. 10,580 students from Nottinghamshire local authority received a maintenance loan in academic year 2006-07, and 10,080 received a tuition fee loan.

The Learning and Skills Council operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the Ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations within the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, what response her Department plans to make to the APC's recommendation 16. [191942]

Meg Hillier: We will shortly be reviewing our response to all of the recommendations in this Animal Procedures Committee report, including recommendation 16, and will aim to publish our further conclusions when we publish the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2007.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies have specialists in animal welfare on their boards. [193110]

Meg Hillier: The Animal Procedures Committee is the only Home Office advisory non-departmental public body that includes specialist animal welfare representatives.

Biometrics

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the statement on page 19 of the strategic action plan for the national identity scheme, 20 December 2006, that the introduction of iris biometrics remained an option, whether iris biometrics will be recorded and stored on the national identity register. [192624]

Meg Hillier: Iris biometrics will not be recorded on the national identity register when the scheme starts. However, it remains an option that we will continue to review as the scheme progresses.

Crime: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes, *(b)* violent crimes, *(c)* robbery offences, *(d)* burglary offences, *(e)* criminal damage offences and *(f)* drug offences were recorded in (i) Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cumbria, (iii) Devon and Cornwall, (iv) Durham, (v) Dyfed-Powys, (vi) Gloucestershire, (vii) Lincolnshire, (viii) Norfolk, (ix) North Yorkshire, (x) North Wales, (xi) West Mercia and (xii) Wiltshire in each of the last nine years. [192454]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the following table.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. Once such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Specific offences recorded by selected police forces in England and Wales

Number of offences

Force	*All crime*	*Violence against the person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*
Cambridgeshire						
1998-99	67,256	5,345	437	12,759	11,925	1,166
1999-2000	68,722	6,090	548	12,377	12,110	1,011
2000-01	64,337	6,423	539	10,244	13,196	829
2001-02	69,559	7,345	679	11,161	13,972	798
2002-03[1]	85,029	12,574	906	12,775	16,153	904
2003-04	79,960	13,663	786	10,257	16,534	1,047
2004-05	73,659	13,358	634	8,501	16,227	1,174
2005-06	66,804	10,158	562	8,217	14,680	1,442
2006-07	69,146	10,421	733	8,821	15,597	2,124
Cumbria						
1998-99	40,202	5,582	119	5,812	8,405	1,621
1999-2000	37,729	5,142	90	5,455	8,943	1,360
2000-01	32,744	4,146	93	4,759	8,895	948
2001-02	37,229	5,334	143	4,942	10,120	925
2002-03[1]	37,595	5,725	130	4,895	10,304	1,038
2003-04	39,539	6,874	124	4,613	11,629	1,189
2004-05	43,300	9,195	109	4,274	12,858	1,321
2005-06	42,722	9,206	87	3,450	13,627	1,568
2006-07	38,640	8,187	68	3,096	12,669	1,434
Devon and Cornwall						
1998-99	110,644	11,758	462	17,808	17,722	3,873
1999-2000	110,361	12,479	487	17,307	18,490	3,784
2000-01	102,853	12,005	452	15,606	18,284	3,374
2001-02	101,425	12,434	474	15,257	19,875	4,079
2002-03[1]	131,240	23,720	710	15,700	26,883	4,516
2003-04	131,453	25,969	562	14,024	30,116	4,826
2004-05	133,282	28,335	541	14,012	31,021	4,356
2005-06	124,533	25,305	566	12,519	31,274	4,147
2006-07	124,569	25,027	649	12,459	32,980	3,867
Durham						
1998-99	50,413	4,955	172	10,135	11,122	1,368
1999-2000	48,796	5,397	236	9,083	10,654	1,259
2000-01	45,900	5,444	238	7,744	10,556	1,234
2001-02	51,478	6,410	284	8,864	13,018	1,317
2002-03[1]	51,177	7,711	287	7,656	14,067	1,289
2003-04	48,432	6,565	267	7,083	14,244	1,205
2004-05	47,115	7,027	178	6,853	15,176	1,062
2005-06	53,123	9,899	281	6,660	16,322	1,299
2006-07	53,173	10,017	233	6,706	16,422	1,317
Dyfed-Powys						
1998-99	24,588	4,680	42	2,615	4,497	2,483
1999-2000	23,709	5,519	28	2,072	4,417	2,030
2000-01	17,736	4,194	20	1,489	3,638	1,273
2001-02	23,969	5,516	26	2,122	4,949	2,407
2002-03[1]	25,104	6,217	40	2,104	4,920	2,978
2003-04	31,105	7,909	54	2,703	7,032	2,420
2004-05	32,409	8,315	41	2,875	8,186	2,327
2005-06	30,185	7,711	40	2,240	7,939	2,495
2006-07	30,124	7,694	47	2,232	8,003	2,484
Gloucestershire						
1998-99	48,206	3,230	273	10,111	6,570	1,152
1999-2000	50,993	4,240	291	9,308	7,990	1,285
2000-01	49,579	4,934	357	7,796	9,048	1,280
2001-02	50,467	4,695	498	8,468	9,264	1,223
2002-03[1]	55,775	7,734	521	8,694	10,103	1,311

Specific offences recorded by selected police forces in England and Wales

Number of offences

Force	*All crime*	*Violence against the person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*
2003-04	58,097	8,303	541	9,072	10,847	1,288
2004-05	53,333	9,549	384	7,142	10,802	1,218
2005-06	53,062	10,496	476	6,260	11,259	1,352
2006-07	52,388	10,831	394	6,413	11,999	1,297
Lincolnshire						
1998-99	46,670	4,239	149	10,257	7,728	1,229
1999-2000	46,170	3,866	178	10,719	8,391	975
2000-01	44,886	3,745	191	9,583	9,078	906
2001-02	49,792	4,812	251	9,592	11,282	1,116
2002-03[1]	61,949	9,238	307	10,831	13,694	1,060
2003-04	60,377	10,148	304	9,052	15,176	1,061
2004-05	58,349	10,856	243	7,306	14,934	951
2005-06	57,608	10,726	229	7,145	14,069	1,239
2006-07	55,478	10,257	230	6,601	14,528	1,421
Norfolk						
1998-99	57,129	5,461	220	10,154	10,393	1,534
1999-2000	59,387	6,382	297	10,243	10,978	1,561
2000-01	57,240	5,775	330	9,445	11,475	1,160
2001-02	58,923	6,021	[illegible]	9,043	13,065	1,211
2002-03[1]	71,270	10,607	[illegible]	9,681	16,030	1,392
2003-04	69,846	11,586	459	8,169	17,462	1,508
2004-05	66,376	12,920	324	6,577	17,470	1,602
2005-06	64,902	12,504	301	6,000	17,577	1,821
2006-07	62,626	11,582	359	5,591	17,258	2,005
North Yorkshire						
1998-99	55,309	4,827	170	11,237	8,372	1,560
1999-2000	53,554	5,101	212	10,402	8,617	1,408
2000-01	51,532	4,895	186	9,828	9,166	1,259
2001-02	59,125	5,624	291	11,656	11,436	1,491
2002-03[1]	67,239	8,108	356	11,511	13,168	1,582
2003-04	71,473	9,610	395	11,062	14,732	1,624
2004-05	61,615	12,045	328	7,759	13,573	1,678
2005-06	58,850	11,473	240	7,324	12,723	1,899
2006-07	54,526	10,087	278	6,836	12,509	1,730
North Wales						
1998-99	43,848	4,703	127	7,226	9,652	1,885
1999-2000	44,606	5,739	146	6,892	10,102	1,586
2000-01	47,401	5,319	158	7,197	12,157	1,421
2001-02	53,839	7,349	194	7,368	14,388	1,382
2002-03[1]	65,067	11,472	224	8,534	17,079	1,830
2003-04	61,749	10,979	201	7,301	17,036	1,830
2004-05	53,849	12,021	149	5,008	15,107	1,833
2005-06	50,270	12,330	150	4,471	14,436	2,108
2006-07	53,450	14,423	134	4,565	14,841	2,105
West Mercia						
1998-99	81,782	6,995	351	14,631	15,346	2,393
1999-2000	84,797	8,213	359	14,313	17,410	2,137
2000-01	78,516	7,911	422	13,384	16,817	2,092
2001-02	102,257	17,032	646	15,398	22,739	2,109
2002-03[1]	105,077	19,848	728	16,375	21,258	2,053
2003-04	106,900	21,867	689	15,015	23,615	2,218
2004-05	95,056	18,179	531	12,424	21,962	2,278
2005-06	85,353	15,699	453	11,066	20,563	2,537
2006-07	82,095	16,010	581	9,529	20,675	2,423

Specific offences recorded by selected police forces in England and Wales

Number of offences

Force	*All crime*	*Violence against the person*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*
Wiltshire						
1998-99	38,189	4,390	195	6,129	6,644	1,199
1999-2000	38,461	4,519	258	5,718	7,151	1,172
2000-01	36,288	4,464	191	5,027	7,423	1,008
2001-02	38,728	4,379	279	5,824	8,374	1,076
2002-03[1]	44,225	6,419	336	6,242	9,246	898
2003-04	42,956	6,302	328	5,929	9,446	971
2004-05	40,076	6,004	256	5,120	9,020	1,066
2005-06	42,181	7,488	301	4,791	9,674	1,340
2006-07	45,098	8,676	363	5,142	11,569	975

[1] The National Crime Recording standard was introduced in 2002-03. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crime: Lincolnshire

Mr, Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* burglary and *(c)* car crime took place in north east Lincolnshire in each year since 2000. [192040]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences recorded in the north east Lincolnshire crime and disorder reduction partnership area and is given in the following table.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. Once such change is that the term "violent crime" is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person. In addition, a new offence group of "Offences against vehicles" has also been created. This group includes offences of theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Specific offences recorded by the police in North East Lincolnshire

	Violence against the person	*Burglary*	*Offences against vehicles*[1]
2000-01	1,891	5,290	5,244
2001-02	2,083	5,803	5,409
2002-03[2]	3,284	5,127	5,764
2003-04	6,046	4,832	6,201
2004-05	5,751	4,554	5,432
2005-06	5,165	3,536	4,340
2006-07	5,717	3,311	4,091

[1] Includes offences of theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crime: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted of aiding and abetting a criminal offence of trespass under section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 in each year since the Act came into force, broken down by age group. [192536]

Mr. McNulty: I understand from the relevant police forces that one male has been arrested for aiding and abetting the offence under section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

Any prosecutions would be brought under the main offence. The Ministry of Justice can confirm that in 2005 and 2006 there have been no prosecutions and convictions for trespass under section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy that Ministers should sign replies to hon. Members writing on constituency cases; and under which circumstances Ministers would not sign such replies. [193818]

Mr. McNulty: Current Home Office policy is for Ministers to sign replies to all letters received from hon. Members.

Separately, the Border and Immigration Agency has a similar policy except that, where the letter relates to the day-to-day operations of the agency, Ministers have authorised the chief executive to reply on their behalf. Where hon. Members write direct to the agency rather than to a Minister, an official reply is sent.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the PentiP computer system. [193454]

Mr. McNulty: The Pentip project will deliver a standard, United Kingdom-wide business process and information technology system to support the processing of penalty notices by the police service and Her Majesty's courts service.

The total cost of designing, building and implementing Pentip is forecast at £13 million. Expenditure up to the end of the current financial year is £5.3 million.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of a member of the public being bitten by a dog were reported to the police in 2007. [192203]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the Home Office. There is no requirement for the police to report such incidences to the Home Office.

Extradition

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received an extradition request from the principality of Liechtenstein for persons suspected of procuring documents belonging to the Bank of Liechtenstein; and whether such a request would fall under the provisions of the European convention on extradition. [192870]

Meg Hillier: As a matter of longstanding policy and practice the United Kingdom will neither confirm nor deny that it has received, is to make or has made an extradition request, until the subject of the request has been arrested in relation to the request.

Liechtenstein is a party to the European convention on extradition; the principality is designated for the purposes of part 2 of the Extradition Act 2003 and any extradition request to the United Kingdom would be considered under that part of the Act.

Genetics: Database

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is available on the purpose, scope and expected usage of the national identity register; and if she will publish this information alongside the information available on the www.ips.gov.uk website. [193309]

Meg Hillier: The national identity scheme delivery plan 2008, published on 6 March 2008, includes the Government's updated plans for the introduction and development of the national identity register.

A copy of the delivery plan can be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/national-identity-scheme-delivery-2008.pdf

Police: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police forces are reimbursed for additional policing of airports when threats to public order are deemed to have arisen due to delays in processing passengers. [193123]

Mr. McNulty: Airport police funding is a local matter for individual airports. There are currently nine airports "designated" under the Aviation Security Act 1982 for policing purposes—London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Edinburgh, Glasgow International, Prestwick, Aberdeen, Manchester and Birmingham. At these airports the airport operator is required to meet the costs of the agreed police presence. At non-designated airports, they either have a dedicated police presence or the police attend when there is an operational need to do so. These costs are funded wholly or partly by the police authority in which that airport is located, or by other means, for example, voluntary contributions by the airport operator.

The Government are also considering how to implement the conclusions of the independent report into airport policing, with the aim of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the police, airport operators and other agencies to deliver a high level of security at UK airports and we will set out proposals on this later in the year.

Police: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on funding of the police. [188163]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has received 26 written representations covering 23 police authority areas, including representations from the Association of Police Authorities/Police Authority Treasurers' Society in response to the provisional funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 announced last December.

Meetings have also been held with representatives of individual police authorities and right hon. and hon. Members to discuss funding issues.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 179093 on the national DNA database tabled on 9 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central; and if she will make a statement. [192951]

Meg Hillier: The question was answered on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2669-70W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Apprentices

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many adult apprenticeships have been completed since the programme was introduced; [191367]

(2) how many apprenticeships have been completed by women since 1997; [191399]

(3) how many black and ethnic minority people have completed apprenticeships since 1997; [191400]

(4) how many disabled people have completed apprenticeships since 1997. [191401]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The total number of apprenticeship frameworks achieved in England since 2001-02—the year that information was first collected on the Learning and Skills Council's individualised learner record—is 410,000. Data on the breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity and disability for the last three years is shown in the following table, but information for the other years is not readily available.

	Apprenticeship frameworks achieved 2004-05 to 2006-07
Total	277,500
Adult learners (aged 19+)	112,800
Male	148,900
Female	128,700
Black or minority ethnic	11,600
White	262,600
Learner has a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem	24,900

	Apprenticeship frameworks achieved 2004-05 to 2006-07
Learner does not have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem	249,200

Source:
Learning and Skills Council

Biofuels: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual turnover of the *(a)* biodiesel and *(b)* bioethanol industries was in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192942]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold information on the annual turnover of the biodiesel and bioethanol industries.

Information on the UK road transport biofuels market was published in the BERR Energy Trends publication for December 2007 available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43304.pdf (pages 45-48)

Biofuels: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed in the *(a)* biodiesel and *(b)* bioethanol industry in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192943]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold information on the number of people employed in the biodiesel and bioethanol industries.

Coal Fired Power Stations

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the cement production industry of likely changes in on-site gypsum storage demands at super critical coal-fired power stations; [189689]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the production tonnage of pulverised fuel ash of the development of new coal-fired power stations in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [189690]

Malcolm Wicks: No such assessments have been made.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission a strategic environmental assessment of the policy framework for consenting to new coal-fired power stations to be *(a)* carried out and *(b)* published. [190597]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department will not require a strategic environmental assessment of the policy framework for consenting to new coal-fired power stations to be carried out or published.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment has been made of the implications of new coal power plants for decarbonisation of other sectors of the economy; [189879]

(2) what assessment he has made of likely implications of spending on the proposed new power plant at Kingsnorth on the market for renewable electricity. [190447]

Malcolm Wicks: Given the participation of the electricity generating sector in the EU emissions trading scheme, new coal power plants will have no impact on net emissions from industries covered by the scheme. This is because these power plants will have to surrender a carbon emission allowance for each tonne of carbon dioxide they emit, meaning that those carbon allowances will not be available to enable emissions by other EU ETS participants. The EU ETS covers power generation and energy intensive industry.

The market for renewable electricity is established by the renewables obligation which requires electricity suppliers to source a minimum proportion of their supply from renewable energy. Spending on other forms of electricity generation should therefore have no effect on that market.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has been made of the possible effect of new coal power plants on the Government's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets; and if he will make a statement. [189880]

Malcolm Wicks: The EU emissions trading scheme ensures that total carbon emissions across EU industry and power generation sectors are restricted by a cap. Any new coal plant in the UK would have to buy allowances to emit, ensuring that equivalent carbon savings are made elsewhere, which count under the Government's approach to carbon budgeting.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Sequestration

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the *(a)* incentives and *(b)* legal framework necessary for companies to retrofit carbon capture and storage technology to coal-fired power stations; and if he will publish any such assessment. [189914]

Malcolm Wicks: Ongoing policy development work by my Department is aimed at promoting the widespread deployment of CCS on new-build and existing power stations and we are assessing a variety of options to achieve this, including possible incentives.

Companies wishing to retrofit the full chain of carbon capture and storage technology would have to obtain the usual planning and regulatory consents. The Energy Bill 2008 contains provisions that will enable the storage of carbon dioxide offshore.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contingency plans he has for circumstances where carbon capture and storage technologies proposed in relation to coal-fired power stations fail to work in *(a)* Kingsnorth, Kent and *(b)* the UK. [190104]

Malcolm Wicks: The separate processes involved in CCS—capture, transport and storage—have been proven on an individual basis over many years. The purpose of the commercial-scale CCS demonstration project supported by the UK Government is to test the viability of CCS on a commercial-scale coal power station.

In the unlikely event that CCS does not prove technologically viable for fossil fuel power stations, or other major sources of carbon dioxide emissions, the Government remain committed to taking actions required to achieve our domestic emissions reductions targets of at least a 60 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with at least a 26 per cent. reduction by 2020 (on 1990 baseline).

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact of the likely volume of carbon dioxide of a new coal fired power station at Kingsnorth on meeting the UK's emissions target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2050. [189312]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State has made no such formal assessment. We remain committed to meeting the UK's emissions targets for both 2020 and 2050.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultation he plans to hold on the development of a mitigation strategy for the environmental and biodiversity impacts in relation to Medway estuary and marshes *(a)* special protection area, *(b)* Ramsar site and *(c)* site of special scientific interest of the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; and whom he plans to consult. [190108]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is consulting Natural England, the Environment Agency, Medway council and E.ON on the terms of conditions to mitigate or remove any adverse impacts to protected areas and species, should the Secretary of State decide to grant consent.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received, and from whom, on the potential for combined heat and power technology to be included as part of the proposal for the power station at Kingsnorth in Kent; and what discussions he has had on the infrastructure required to *(a)* capture, *(b)* transport and *(c)* utilise the heat to be generated at the proposed Kingsnorth power station. [190186]

Malcolm Wicks: Numerous representations have been received from individuals and others, including Greenpeace and the constituency MP, on the use of heat. The Department is discussing the terms of suggested conditions to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to cater for any heat demand that arises should the Secretary of State decide to grant consent.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on whether low carbon energy generation technologies were considered for construction at Kingsnorth in Kent prior to the existing proposal for a coal-fired power station there. [190227]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has given no such consideration to other low carbon energy generation technologies at Kingsnorth. The choice of technology is a commercial matter for the applicant.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment his Department has made of likely changes in on-site storage demand for ash at the supercritical units planned at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189713]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the operation of the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth on natural gas imports to the UK; [189716]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of potential changes in storage requirements for gypsum on the design and build process for the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189754]

(4) what assessment he has made of the role that *(a)* wet and *(b)* dry electrostatic precipitation technologies will have in the reduction of particulate emissions at the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; and if he will make a statement; [189758]

(5) what assessment he has made of the effective transmission range of heat to be captured through combined heat and power technology at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; and what representations he has received from industry groups on this issue. [189762]

Malcolm Wicks: No such assessments have been made.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will require the implementation of heat capture mechanisms at the proposed Kingsnorth power station; and what consideration has been given to the alternative siting of the power station to improve heat capture options. [190446]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is currently discussing draft planning conditions which include the installation of the necessary infrastructure to supply heat should such a demand arise should the Secretary of State decide to grant consent. Subject to the proper consideration under both planning and environmental regimes the siting of a power station is a matter for the applicant concerned.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Limestone

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate his Department has made of future on-site storage demand for gypsum at the new supercritical units planned at the coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; [189711]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of on-site storage demand for limestone at the new supercritical units planned at the coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189761]

Malcolm Wicks: The storage capacity at Kingsnorth for gypsum and limestone would be the subject of planning conditions which would be agreed with Medway council.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Pollution Control

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to avoid release of slipped ammonia from the selective catalytic reduction process at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189683]

Malcolm Wicks: The avoidance of releases of pollutants to the environment are a matter for the Environment Agency.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which catalytic reductant is proposed as part of the selective catalytic reduction process at the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. [189760]

Malcolm Wicks: Ammonia (anhydrous) would be the proposed selective catalytic reduction reagent.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192376]

Mr. Thomas: The Prime Minister sets the criteria for cars for use by Ministers. Currently, Cabinet Ministers may choose either a diesel-powered Jaguar XJ or a Toyota Prius hybrid. Other Ministers may also choose from a Toyota Prius, a Honda Civic hybrid or any other suitable car with a CO_2 emission of 185g/km or less.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the Government's strategy is on increasing take-up of smart meters; and what discussions has he had with the Energy Retail Association on this matter; [192495]

(2) what assessment he has made of the take-up of smart meters; and what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the use of smart meters in *(a)* new and *(b)* existing stock. [192496]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department has consulted on a range of metering and billing proposals, and has held discussions with a range of interested parties, including other Government Departments and gas and electricity suppliers. We will shortly respond to the consultation. In doing so, we will set out our views on the next steps on smart metering.

Global Energy Partnership

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which meetings of the Global Energy Partnership have been attended by United Kingdom representatives in the last 12 months; and in what capacity such representatives attended. [192822]

Malcolm Wicks: UK representatives attended the following Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) meetings as observers:

GNEP Ministerial Meeting on 21 May 2007 in Washington, D.C.;

GNEP Ministerial Meeting on 16 September 2007 in Vienna; and

GNEP Steering Group Meeting on 11-13 December 2007 in Vienna.

Government Departments: Renewable Energy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress the Government has made in meeting its share of the 2020 EU renewable energy target. [193667]

Malcolm Wicks: At present, just under 2 per cent. of our energy comes from renewable sources, and on current policies, we expect that to rise to about 5 per cent. by 2020. Agreement has not been reached on the contribution that each member state (including the UK) will make toward the EU 2020 renewable energy target, but we are fully committed to meeting our fair share. We will consult in the summer on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our contribution and publish our full renewable energy strategy in spring 2009 once the EU directive has been agreed.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claimants under the coal compensation scheme have waited 10 years or more for compensation. [192731]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department received 592,000 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) claims. Of these, 669 claims were registered 10 years or more before being settled by payment. There are 1,916 COPD claims still outstanding that were registered 10 years or more ago.

The Department also received 170,000 vibration white finger (VWF) claims. Of these, 2,070 were registered 10 years or more before being settled by payment. There are 496 VWF claims still outstanding that were registered 10 years or more ago.

In each case, claims will have been registered before agreement was reached as to how claims should be handled and could not have been settled during these periods. In addition, many of the claims that remain outstanding involve co-defendant or other issues which are not within the Department's control to resolve.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments each of the regional development agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193822]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows payments made by each of the RDAs to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes.

RDAs	*Payments to Ipsos (£000)*	*Purpose*
AWM	167	Analysis of impact of inward investment activities and strategy development
	—	Regional magazine readership survey
	—	Post-annual conference survey
	—	Employers study on graduate employment within the region
EEDA	0	—
EMDA	18	Staff perception survey used to direct HR policy
LDA	0	—
NWDA	100	Four surveys to inform marketing of the North West region
ONE	0	—
SEEDA	0	—
SWRDA	0	—
YF	32	Stakeholder engagement survey on rural renaissance proposals

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent County Council, (ii) Thanet District Council and (iii) Dover District Council in 2007-08. [183058]

Mr. McFadden: The central Government revenue funding to Kent county council, Thanet district council and Dover district council in each year since 1993 is tabled as follows.

£000

	Kent county council	*Dover district council*	*Thanet district council*
1993-94	845,077	7,929	11,394
1994-95	875,246	8,262	11,105
1995-96	754,685	8,088	10,613
1996-97	781,543	8,490	11,381
1997-98	786,516	8,522	11,457
1998-99	699,509	8,338	11,868
1999-2000	755,146	8,582	11,891
2000-01	841,362	9,147	12,297
2001-02	904,878	9,369	12,895
2002-03	960,539	9,646	13,218
2003-04	1,049,759	9,912	14,022
2004-05	1,094,036	9,450	14,432
2005-06	1,129,800	9,774	13,952
2006-07	1,168,806	10,811	15,766

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

The large differences between 1994-95 and 1995-96 and between 1997-98 and 1998-99 for Kent county council are as result of local authority re-organisation.

Central Government revenue funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services. In past years, it also includes the standard spending assessment reduction grant, central support protection grant, council tax benefit subsidy limitation scheme.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

The amount of capital grants provided to local authorities by central Government is not available. Funding of supported borrowing is included indistinguishably in revenue funding given in the aforementioned table.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much of phase 2 of the low carbon buildings programme budget *(a)* has been allocated in grants and *(b)* is available, broken down by funding stream. [187272]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 February 2008]*: Phase 2 of the low carbon buildings programme has a grant budget of £48 million available through one funding stream.

As of 21 February, £7,813,051.06 had been allocated. Therefore £40,186,948.94 remains available to potential applicants. My Department is currently taking forward work to increase uptake.

Statistics on grant allocation for phase 2 of the low carbon buildings programme are updated daily and are available from the scheme's website at:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/reportsummary.jsp

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of grants and how much and what proportion of grant money initially committed under phase one of the low carbon buildings programme prior to April 2007 has not been taken up; and if he will make a statement. [192968]

Malcolm Wicks: Prior to April 2007, we had committed £8,027,264 to 5,062 household projects through the low carbon buildings programme, of which £2,163,367 (27 per cent. of value) to 1,929 (38 per cent. of applications) have not been taken up.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Department has spent on advertising grants available to households under phase one of the low carbon buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [193015]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the launch of the low carbon buildings programme phase 1 in April 2006, we have spent approximately £82,000 on advertising the householder grants through our programme contractors, the Energy Saving Trust. This work includes the development of the www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk website, presentations at industry events, and marketing activities through the use of the EST advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants.

This does not take into account the work that my officials have done, which includes developing web pages with other Government Departments and industry at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/incdex.htm

www. sharp. co.uk/page/solarhowtobuy

We also raised awareness at a national and regional level through the issuing of a press release in December 2007 that focussed on the low carbon buildings programme.

Microgeneration

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of homes in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK in which heat producing microgeneration systems have been installed in the last 10 years. [192127]

Malcolm Wicks: We commissioned a report in 2005, estimating that there were approximately 82,000 microgeneration installations in the UK, of which 80,156 were heat producing microgeneration systems. However, we are not able to provide a breakdown for the number of homes in Eastbourne or East Sussex.

We are currently commissioning further research to provide up-to-date estimates.

Mining: Compensation

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims under the coal compensation scheme *(a)* have been settled and *(b)* remain to be settled. [192675]

Malcolm Wicks: As at March 2008, the Department has received 591,755 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims (COPD). Of these, 516,163 claims have been settled, leaving 75,592 outstanding.

The Department has also received 169,612 vibration white finger claims (VWF). Of these, 164,137 have been settled, leaving 5,475 to be settled.

We are working towards substantial completion of the schemes. For VWF, it is anticipated that around 300 claims will be outstanding by September 2008. For respiratory disease claims, a similar position is anticipated by summer 2009.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of his Department's *(a)* annual budget and *(b)* end-of-year flexibility funding was allocated to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in 2007-08. [192819]

Mr. Thomas: For the financial year 2007-08, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) represents 44 per cent. of the Department's total annual DEL (departmental expenditure limit) budget. Of the total available stock of the Department's end year flexibility at the time of this year's spring supplementary estimate, 43 per cent. was drawn down and allocated to NDA for 2007-08.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his officials, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), and contractors for the NDA, have had with representatives of the United States Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory in respect of potential future collaboration on advanced reprocessing techniques. [192821]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no such discussions.

Office of National Statistics: Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding is provided by regional development agencies to support the Office for National Statistics' regional operations; and if he will make a statement. [193704]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs have collectively provided £940,000 in 2007-08 to support the ONS' regional operations.

Oil: Prices

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 2263-64W, on oil: prices, what *(a)* methodology was adopted and *(b)* factors were taken into account, in producing assumptions for future oil prices, with particular reference to the forecast for oil prices between 2010 and 2020. [193038]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The oil assumptions used by the Government for their analytical work are formulated through a consultation process. The consultation is available on the Department's website (http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/index.html) and is open to anyone who wants to participate. As part of the consultation, industry experts and analysts across the Government are consulted, and information from a number of sources, including the International Energy Agency, are used. Factors such as the global demand and supply projections, price growth rate, etc. are considered in arriving at the oil assumptions.

Post Office: Expenditure

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1205W, on post office: expenditure, when the managing director of Post Office Ltd will reply to the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye. [193568]

Mr. McFadden: I understand that the managing director of Post Office Limited will reply shortly.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which regional development agency (RDA) board members declare their main residence to be within the region of the RDA on whose board they sit. [193297]

Mr. McFadden: Out of the total of 120 RDA board members, including chairs, 115 members declared their main residence to be within the region of the RDA on whose board they sit. This amounts to approximately 95 per cent. of all members. These figures exclude the London Development Agency as this is under the control of the Mayor for London.

Regional Development Agencies: Derelict Land

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hectares of brownfield land were *(a)* reclaimed and *(b)* redeveloped by regional development agencies in the last year for which figures are available; what the value of that land was; and what percentage has since been (i) leased and (ii) sold to businesses. [193705]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs have reclaimed and/or redeveloped a total of 894.60 hectares of brownfield land in 2006-07. The following table shows the amount of brownfield land, which RDAs have been involved in bringing back into use in 2006-07. These figures have been laid before Parliament in the RDA year-end outputs for 2006-07.

Most of the RDA brownfield land outputs are secured via grant funding to other organisations to carry out projects which bring land back into use. On this basis the RDAs hold no data on the value of such land, or whether it has been leased or sold.

Hectares of brownfield land reclaimed and/or redeveloped 2006-07[1]

RDAs	
AWM	75
EEDA	46
EMDA	117
LDA	82
NWDA	299
ONE	62.30
SEEDA[2]	13
SWRDA	86.30
YF	114

[1] RDAs do not record whether the land is "reclaimed or redeveloped". Rather they record in their year-end outputs how match land has been brought back into use.

[2] A shortfall against SEED A's brownfield land remediation targets in 2006-07 was caused by delays with delivery of some projects, which will create a surplus against the target range in 2007-08.

Renewable Energy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the electricity generating capacity of installed I wind power, *(b)* solar photovoltaics and *(c)* geothermal technologies in the UK was in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192945]

Malcolm Wicks: The available information is as shown in the following table. Regional data on a consistent basis are not available before 2003. In 2006 Scotland had 48 per cent. of the capacity to generate from wind, Wales had 18 per cent., the north west of England 7½ per cent., the east of England 6 per cent. and Northern Ireland 5½ per cent with the remaining 15 per cent. shared between the other seven English regions. While the overall growth in the capacity to generate from wind between 2003 and 2006 was 163 per cent. some regions experienced very big increases because they began from very low levels while increases in other regions were more modest.

Installed capacity of sites generating electricity from wind and solar photovoltaics, 2003 to 2006[1]

				MW
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wind				
England	164.1	238.1	364.6	531.9
East Midlands	1.3	[2]—	6.1	54.6
East	8,8	67.3	89.2	119.7
North East	16.3	36.0	30.7	33.8
North West	57.2	55.8	63.8	149.0
London	[3]—	[3]—	[2]—	[2]—
South East	1.7	[2]—	93.4	93.4
South West	43.9	43.9	45.1	45.2
West Midlands	[3]—	[3]—	[2]—	[2]—
Yorkshire and the Humber	35.0	35.1	36.2	36.3
Wales	232.3	230.9	329.8	359.0
Scotland	308.3	412.0	746.5	946.5
Northern Ireland	37.9	45.2	117.5	110.2
Other sites[4]	[3]—	7.5	3.6	3.7
Micro wind generation	[5]—	[5]—	3.6	3.8
UK total[6]	742.7	933.7	1,565.5	1,955.0
Solar photovoltaics[7]	6.0	8.2	10.9	14.3

[1] At the end of December each year.

[2] Data cannot be shown because of the small number of sites providing information for these cells. Instead the data are included under "other sites" (see note [4]).

[3] Nil or less than half the final digit shown.

[4] "Other sites" are sites that have not been attributed to a region so that data related to individual companies are not disclosed.

[5] Not available

[6] Includes 0.5 MW of shoreline wave.

[7] The solar photovoltaics figure for 2006 was revised in December 2007.

Note:

Components may not add exactly to totals because of rounding.

Sources:

Energy Trends September 2007, pages 16 to 25. Tables 2, 5a, 6a and 7a of 'Renewable energy in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England in 2006'.

The estimated UK generating capacity of solar photovoltaics and micro wind generation are not available broken down by region. There is only one site using the energy from geothermal sources in the UK and this does not generate electricity.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual turnover of the *(a)* wind power, *(b)* solar photovoltaics and *(c)* geothermal technologies industries was in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192948]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold statistics for the annual turnover of the wind power, solar photovoltaics and geothermal technologies industries.

Renewable Energy: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed in the *(a)* wind power, *(b)* solar photovoltaics and *(c)* geothermal technologies industries in the UK in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192946]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold statistics on the numbers of people employed in the UK wind power, solar photovoltaics and geothermal technology industries during the last five years.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the UK's ability to meet its share of the 2020 EU renewable energy target. [193670]

Malcolm Wicks: Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state (including the UK) will make toward the EU 2020 target, but we are fully committed to meeting our fair share. We will consult in the summer on policy options to meet our contribution and publish our full renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Solar Power: Heating

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total thermal capacity of installed solar heating technology in the UK was in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192937]

Malcolm Wicks: Available statistics on solar thermal heating cover its output rather than its capacity. These estimates are available only at the UK level and not regionally. They are:

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent
2002	16.1
2003	19.8
2004	24.6
2005	29.4
2006	36.3

Source:
Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, 2007, Table 7.7

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual turnover of the solar heating industry was in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192938]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold the information on the annual turnover of the solar heating industry.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed in the solar heating industry in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [192939]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold information on the number of people employed in the solar heating industry.

Training: Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on *(a)* numbers and *(b)* training of the local workforce in relation to the development of the (i) Oikos and (ii) Calor Gas Canvey Island site for (A) biodiesel and glycerine and (B) LNG transfer, processing and storage. [190502]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been no discussion with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on these issues.

Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the number of days annually on which wind speed is insufficient to provide any usable power from wind generation in each area in which wind farms are located. [175776]

Malcolm Wicks: No such assessment has been made, However, a windspeed database is available on BERR's website at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wind/windspeed-database/page27326.html.

The geographical dispersion of wind farms means that the probability of having no wind across the entire country is extremely low.

A 2005 report by the Environmental Change Institute of the university of Oxford, on behalf of the DTI (now BERR) found that a typical wind turbine will generate electricity for 80 per cent. of the time. Wind power availability is greater during winter than at other times of the year, and is on average stronger during the day than overnight.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Vestas-type wind turbines have been built in the UK; and what recent checks on their safety have been carried out. [191864]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not keep statistics according to the brand of wind turbine. However, according to the British Wind Energy Association the number of onshore and offshore Vestas-type wind turbines that have been erected in the UK to date is 1,182.

Vestas carries out detailed safety inspections as part of a documented service and maintenance regime. In addition Vestas has taken the additional precautionary measure of implementing a Critical Component Inspection regime on all their turbines.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what formal mechanisms exist for non-governmental organisations funded by his Department to provide feedback on the effectiveness of UK aid in Afghanistan. [193310]

Mr. Malik: In the UK, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) meet quarterly with representatives of the UK Government on Afghanistan. These meetings are an opportunity for the UK Government to update NGO stakeholders on the UK strategy and progress in Afghanistan; and for the UK Government to receive feedback on all elements of the comprehensive approach, including on DFID's aid programme.

In Afghanistan, 97 members from the national and international humanitarian, reconstruction and development NGOs community are co-ordinated by the agency co-ordinating body for Afghan relief (ACBAR). Some NGOs are implementers of DFID funded, but Government owned, national priority programmes. ACBAR are represented at monthly meetings of lead donors and Afghan Government representatives on the Government of Afghanistan's own plan for reconstruction and development, the Afghanistan national development strategy.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on the delivery of UK restrictions imposed by the Burmese military regime on international aid agencies working inside Burma. [193403]

Mr. Malik: All aid agencies working in Burma have to operate within a context of restrictions on travel by international staff and difficulties for international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in obtaining memoranda of understanding (MOUs) from the Burmese regime.

In recent weeks the regime has emphasised the importance it attaches to international NGOs in Burma operating strictly within the terms of their MOUs. In January, the Ministry of Health held a meeting to remind NGOs of their existing guidelines. Since then, most NGOs have been able to continue their work effectively. More recently however a number of NGOs have been asked to curtail particular aspects of their operations in some parts of the country. These additional restrictions appear to be related to the regime's sensitivities over external contacts with Burmese civil society in advance of the constitutional referendum planned for May.

The Department for International Development, along with other donors in Burma, are keeping the situation closely under review.

Global Plan to Stop TB Partnership: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department plans to provide to the Global Plan to Stop TB Partnership for the financial years 2008 to 2010. [193706]

Gillian Merron: The Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis (TB) is a roadmap for combating TB; it lays out the actions and resources needed to halve TB prevalence and deaths by 2015. It does not directly receive funding.

The Department for International Development supports the Global Plan through several funding channels, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNITAID, the international drug purchase facility, and the Stop TB Partnership.

The Department will shortly finalise its budget for the next three financial years—including support to the Stop TB Partnership.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives of the Darfur community peace and stability fund are; when Government funding will be provided to the fund; whether non-governmental organisations will be involved in delivering the objectives of the fund; and if he will make a statement. [193359]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Darfur community peace and stability fund (DCPSF) aims to support local level peace building and reconciliation through the provision of essential services and livelihood support. The fund will operate in areas where there is local security and where community leaders have committed to a dialogue on peace.

The UK pledged £5 million to the DCPSF on 28 October 2007, and we expect to disburse £1 million by April 2008.

The UK is on the DCPSF steering committee, which includes non-governmental organisations (NGOs), donors and the United Nations (UN). Projects will be implemented by NGOs and UN agencies.

UN Convention Against Corruption

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions have been brought since the adoption of the UN convention on corruption in cases related to the provisions of the convention. [192984]

Mr. Thomas: No specific statistics are held on prosecutions related to criminal offences covered by the UN convention against corruption.

JUSTICE

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187543]

Maria Eagle: The Department has a team within its human resources division that deals with all SCS issues. This team does not keep records of reimbursable expenses. The information is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts as there are no separate accounting lines for senior civil service staff.

The information requested may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments and agencies have authority to reimburse expenses incurred by their staff in connection with their employment, subject to the conditions set out in section 8 of the civil service management code which state that departments and agencies must:

> reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business;
>
> comply with the additional conditions and rules on travel, relocation expenses, compensation for loss or damage to property, and overseas expenses set out in sections 8.2 to 8.6 of the Code; and
>
> ensure that their rules provide for claiming recompense, including verification and authorisation.

All expenditure on expenses is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that are based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and supported by the Department's published internal guidance.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192054]

Maria Eagle: The MoJ has spent the following amounts on pot plants in each of the last five years. A breakdown of the figures prior to and including the financial year 2004-2005 is not available and to obtain them would incur a disproportionate cost.

	£ (including VAT)
2007-08	26,816.46
2006-07	27,027.30
2005-06	27,284.93
2004-05	33,317.22
2003-04	18,115.00
Total	132,560.91

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether consideration has been given to applying gender-responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192101]

Mr. Wills: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continues to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate Departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

This Department takes seriously its responsibilities to promote equality of opportunity between men and women and to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and will shortly be publishing its gender equality scheme, the first since the creation of the Ministry of Justice, which will set out a range of activity in support of these aims.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of travel undertaken by officials of his Department and its predecessor was in each year for which figures are available. [187585]

Maria Eagle: The spend on travel undertaken by officials is not separately identifiable in the Department's accounts.

The Department's annual accounts show travel, subsistence, and hospitality in one line, and where it may be possible to separate the travel and subsistence element, to distinguish the travel element from this figure may be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the civil service management code.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department and its agencies spent on first-class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade; [187663]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187745]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to list the costs spent on first class travel by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Travel by Eurostar is not separately identifiable, as the Department does not book travel with Eurostar directly as a supplier. Central guidance states that all Departmental travel should be booked via our booking agent, and although we get itemised bills, these are coded to a general travel and subsistence expense code. The identification of Eurostar bookings may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the civil service management code, a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many written Questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193389]

Maria Eagle: The information requested are in the following tables and include parliamentary questions tabled this session.

Ordinary written questions

	Answered	*Percentage*
On time	773	74.98
Up to 2 weeks	124	12.03
2 to 4 weeks	62	6.01
4 to 6 weeks	43	4.17
6 to 8 weeks	20	1.94
Over 8 weeks	9	0.87

Named day questions

	Answered	*Percentage*
On time	249	74.10
Up to 2 weeks	65	19.35
2 to 4 weeks	20	5.95
4 to 6 weeks	1	0.3
6 to 8 weeks	1	0.3
Over 8 weeks	0	0.0

Magistrates Courts: Leeds

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the inquiry into the resulting and warrant processes at Leeds magistrates court will report; and if he will make a statement. [193218]

Mr. Straw: In my statement to the House on 29 November, I committed to publishing the joint inspectorate report and to making a statement to Parliament. The report was published on 11 March accompanied by a written ministerial statement.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of repatriating foreign prisoners held in UK prisons in the last 12 months, broken down by country of origin. [192693]

Mr. Straw: In 2007, foreign prisoners held in England an Wales were repatriated under prisoner transfer agreements to the following countries to continue serving their sentence:

	Number
Belgium	10
Cyprus	2
Dutch Antilles	5
France	3
Germany	2
Ireland	5
Italy	1
Lithuania	1
Norway	2
The Netherlands	75
Poland	1
Spain	2
Switzerland	1
Turkey	1

In each case the flight and escort cost of transferring the prisoner from the United Kingdom to the receiving state was met by that state.

The repatriation of prisoners from Scotland is a matter for Scottish Ministers and the repatriation of prisoners from Northern Ireland is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Prisons: Contracts

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value of the initial contract awarded to each contracted-out prison currently in operation was; and what the operational cost of each contracted-out prison was in each of the last five years. [188238]

Maria Eagle: Information on the value over the life of the contract and the expenditure for each contracted prison is provided in the following table. Information on expenditure has previously been published on the prison service website in the annual accounts 2002-03, National Offender Management Service website in the office for contracted prisons statement of performance for 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the pre-audited financial information for contracted and commercial service level agreement prisons 2006-07. Information for 2003-04 was previously provided in a written ministerial statement.

			Expenditure (£)				
Prison	*Date of award of contract*	*Value over the life of the contract[1] (£ million)*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Altcourse (DCMF)	20 December 1995	247 over 25 years	33,836,207	31,782,463	31,220,612	32,739,936	32,154,593
Ashfield (DCMF)	1 July 1998	121 over 25 years	19,984,049	19,808,188	16,706,138	13,662,084	9,820,999
Bronzefield[2] (DCMF)	20 December 2002	219 over 25 years	21,170,132	20,065,025	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Doncaster (MO)	20 June 2000	140 over 10 years	21,455,301	20,367,274	19,230,566	19,097,051	19,252,815
Dovegate (DCMF)	27 September 1999	240 over 25 years	23,238,361	23,234,391	23,060,909	23,584,223	24,511,442
Forest Bank (DCMF)	6 July 1998	197 over 25 years	23,277,701	22,736,186	21,887,576	21,783,463	20,821,813
Lowdham Grange (DCMF)	7 November 1996	137 over 25 years	13,741,280	13,094,659	12,941,163	13,004,116	13,159,649
Parc (DCMF)	4 January 1996	266 over 25 years	36,939,202	33,539,477	32,365,812	32,529,421	31,322,995
Peterborough[4] (DCMF)	14 February 2003	291 over 25 years	26,398,125	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Rye Hill (DCMF)	23 July 1999	154 over 25 years	14,746,072	14,722,833	14,401,669	14,935,111	14,103266
Wolds (MO)	5 January 2003	45 over 10 years	8,070,803	6,861,220	7,097,441	6,776,755	8,504,900

[1] The value over the life of the contract is based on the net present value (NPV) calculated for the winning bidder at the award of the contract. The NPV is a standard method used for the financial appraisal of long-term projects and is calculated in accordance with the HM Treasury Green Book. This information has previously been published.

There is no direct relationship between the annual value of the contract shown and the NPV for the whole life of the contract.

[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004. Part year information was excluded from the analysis.

[3] Not open.

[4] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005. Part year information was excluded from the analysis.

Note:

Expenditure figures have different elements included reflecting different management and financing arrangements for:

Manage Only (MO) establishments, the expenditure figures include:

Payment to contractors

Controller Team based at establishment

Design, Construct, Manage and Finance (DCMF) expenditure figures include:

As aforementioned for Manage Only

Adjustment for the capital repayment element in contractual payments.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of each contracted-out prison has been *(a)* per prison place and *(b)* per prisoner in each of the last five years. [188239]

Maria Eagle: Information on the cost per prison place and per prisoner in each contracted prison is provided in the following table. Information has previously been published on the Prison Service website in the annual accounts 2002-03, the NOMS website in the office for contracted prisons statement of performance for 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the pre-audited financial information for contracted and commercial SLA prisons 2006-07. Information for the financial year 2003-04 was previously provided in a written ministerial statement.

£

	2006-07		*2005-06*		*2004-05*		*2003-04*		*2002-03*	
	Cost per place	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse (DCMF)	55,108	32,947	51,763	33,141	50,848	32,488	53,322	32,871	52,369	32,786
Ashfield (DCMF)	49,960	54,304	48,669	60,025	41047	59,032	33,568	49,144	24,130	36,806
Bronzefield[1] (DCMF)	47,045	50,285	44,490	47,774	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Doncaster (MO)	27,828	19,312	26,417	18,999	24,942	17,627	24,769	1,7205	24,971	17,163
Dovegate (DCMF)	29,048	28,619	29,043	28,684	28,826	27,919	27,424	27,779	30,639	32,519
Forest Bank (DCMF)	29,097	22,212	28,420	22,269	27,359	21,479	27,229	21,697	26,027	20,599
Lowdham Grange (DCMF)	27,264	25,447	25,981	25,576	25,677	25,375	25,802	24,912	26,110	25,413
Parc (DCMF)	44,080	34,914	39,976	33,742	38,577	32,859	41,281	33,193	37,830	32,115
Peterborough[3] (DCMF)	31,319	30,626	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Rye Hill (DCMF)	24,577	24,455	24,538	24,954	24,003	22,538	24,892	22,767	23,505	21,504
Wolds (MO)	25,221	21,638	20,855	23,258	21,507	20,572	21,861	19,700	24,635	19,170

[1] HMP Bronzefield opened during 2004-05, part year information was excluded from the analysis.

[2] Not open.

[3] HMP Peterborough opened during 2005-06, part year information was excluded from the analysis.

Note:

(DCMF): Design, Construct, Manage and Finance.

(MO): Manage Only.

Prisons: Coroners

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on legal representation and advice on each coroner's case into a death in prison service establishments (including secure training centres) in each of the last four years. [193411]

Maria Eagle: Inquests into deaths in prison custody are inquisitorial fact-finding processes, heard by a Coroner with a jury. The information is not available in the requested format but HM Prison Service's legal costs since April 2004 are as provided in the following table. They include the costs of the Treasury Solicitor, Counsels' fees and other disbursements. Comparable legal costs in respect of secure training centres are mostly incurred by the private companies that run the centres.

Prison service inquest costs

	£
2004-05	901,000
2005-06	1,547,000
2006-07	1,670,000
2007-08	1,962,000
Total	6,080.000

Rape: Convictions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people *(a)* were convicted of rape and not given a custodial sentence between 1992 and April 1997 and *(b)* have been so convicted and not given a custodial sentence since May 1997; [188499]

(2) how many people convicted of rape in the last three years were *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 19 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 45, *(e)* 46 to 55, *(f)* 56 to 65 and *(g)* 66 years and over; [188570]

(3) how many convictions for rape there were in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how many charges of rape were brought in each year; [188607]

(4) what percentage of people prosecuted for rape were convicted of that offence in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [188608]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is in the following table. The number of offenders convicted of rape who can be detained indefinitely more than tripled between 2004 and 2006. The figures include those convicted of an offence of rape, under section 1 of the sexual offences Act 2003, and those convicted of an offence of rape of a child under 13, under section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Charging information is not held by my Department.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, convicted at all courts for rape offences, broken down by age group, and the percentage of persons prosecuted who were found guilty of rape in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against			*Found guilty*			*Percentage prosecuted who were found guilty*		
Age group	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
10-17	254	305	229	30	73	71	12	24	31
18	98	100	101	8	[illegible]	23	8	18	23
19-25	567	534	532	148	127	142	26	24	27
26-35	591	648	556	141	144	167	24	22	30
36-45	512	553	486	148	171	188	29	31	39
46-55	233	247	235	96	75	90	41	30	38
56-65	146	112	129	45	59	55	31	53	43
66 and over	52	59	67	28	27	18	54	46	27
Total	2,453	2,558	2,335	644	694	754	26	27	32

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: The Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 1 and 5.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Our ref: PQ 188570, 188607 and 188608 (table 1)

Number of persons convicted of rape and not given a custodial sentence in England and Wales for the years 1992 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Found guilty
1992	33
1993	23
1994	16
1995	26
1996	15
1997	12
1998	14

Number of persons convicted of rape and not given a custodial sentence in England and Wales for the years 1992 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Found guilty
1999	16
2000	17
2001	14
2002	11
2003	15
2004	20
2005	40

Number of persons convicted of rape and not given a custodial sentence in England and Wales for the years 1992 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Fo[illegible]
2006	44

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Our ref: PQ 188499 (table 2)

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response has been made to the Rule 43 report made on 20 July 2007 by HM Coroner Judge Pollard following the inquest into the death of 15-year-old Gareth Myatt. [193412]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes) and I intend to announce shortly the action we have taken and are taking in response to the coroner's recommendations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the volume of (i) cannabis and (ii) opium production and *(b)* the area of land under cultivation for (A) cannabis and (B) opium production in Afghanistan in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [192851]

Meg Munn: The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts annual surveys of opium cultivation in Afghanistan. While UNODC does not conduct specific cannabis cultivation surveys in Afghanistan, it provides estimates based upon interviews with village elders while undertaking its opium survey. We remain concerned by the total opium cultivation figures, but welcome the UNODC's findings that it expects cultivation to "decrease slightly in 2008". Poppy cultivation has increased primarily in the south, where insecurity is greatest. Where security, alternative livelihoods and governance exists, poppy cultivation has fallen: in 2007, the number of poppy free provinces doubled from six to 13. This year we hope to see further progress and support the Government of Afghanistan's target of over half of all provinces going poppy free in 2008. The following data is drawn from the UNODC surveys.

	Potential total volume of opium production (metric tonnes)	*Estimated opium cultivation (hectares)*	*Opium poppy as a percentage of agricultural land*	*Estimated cannabis cultivation (hectares)*
2007	8,200	193,000	4	70,000
2006	6,100	165,000	4	50,000
2005	4,100	104,000	2	30,000
2004	4,200	131,000	3	[1]—
2003	3,600	80,000	2	[1]—
2002	3,400	74,000	1	[1]—
2001	185	8,000	[2]—	[1]—
2000	3,276	82,172	[2]—	[1]—
1999	4,565	91,983	[2]—	[1]—
1998	2,693	64,674	[2]—	[1]—

[1] Not recorded.

[2] Date not available.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the assassination of the General Secretary of the Karen National Union, Padoh Mahn Sha Lah Phan; [192880]

(2) what steps he has taken to raise the assassination of the General Secretary of the Karen National Union *(a)* with the regime in Burma, *(b)* with the Royal Thai Government and *(c)* the United Nations. [192881]

Meg Munn: The death of the Secretary-General of the Karen National Union, Pado Mahn Sha, on 14 February, further underlines the need for a comprehensive and equitable settlement of Burma's ethnic conflicts. The failure of the regime's roadmap to meet the aspirations of the ethnic groups, including the Karen, for a greater degree of autonomy, is fuelling internal divisions and violence.

We continue to raise a range of issues relating to the ethnic groups with our partners in the region, internationally and with representatives of the ethnic groups themselves, including the exile community. I raised the issue of the death of Pado Mahn Sha with the Thai Minister of Interior during my visit to Thailand on 29 February. Meeting the aspirations of the ethnic groups was a fundamental demand in the UN presidential statement of 11 October 2007.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with the Karen National Union on *(a)* the security and humanitarian situation in Karen State and *(b)* the political situation in Burma. [192882]

Meg Munn: We remain engaged with a wide range of stakeholders and representatives of the ethnic groups in Burma. We are concerned about the situation in Karen State. Attacks carried out by the Burmese army on civilians in northern and western Karen State have been particularly intense over the past two years These have resulted in a significant increase in the number of internally displaced people and refugees on the Thai/Burmese border We have repeatedly called for a halt to such offensives and have urged both the military regime and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to find a peaceful settlement that will bring about a permanent end to the conflict. We continue to support Aung San Suu Kyi's statement of 8 November 2007 calling for a genuine national dialogue between the government, opposition parties and ethnic groups in Burma. We believe that this statement is all the more relevant in light of the regime's announcement to hold a referendum on the constitution in May 2008 and elections in 2010. If the process is to lead to national reconciliation and stability, it must allow for the full participation of opposition and ethnic groups.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on targeted financial sanctions on those associated with the military regime in Burma. [192890]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) gave on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1363-64W to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson).

The EU listed companies with links to the Burmese military regime in its new package of measures agreed in October 2007.

EU member states are currently considering further restrictive measures against Burma.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2355W, on Burma: sanctions, by what means options for extending existing measures against members of the military regime in Burma to include targeted banking sanctions are being considered; and by what date he expects such consideration to be complete. [192967]

Meg Munn: The EU common position on Burma includes a ban on investment and the provision of financial services to certain enterprises linked to the military regime. It also includes an asset freeze, which targets the regime leadership, the senior ranks of the military and their family members.

The UK is still exploring with its EU partners how best to target financial transactions owned or controlled by Burmese officials. As discussions are still continuing I am unable to comment on specific nominations under discussion as to do so could risk asset flight.

No date has yet been set to present the conclusions of these discussions.

China: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Chinese delegation last visited the UK as part of the UK-China human rights dialogue; when he expects such a delegation to next visit the UK; and with what frequency such visits have taken place in the last three years. [193063]

Meg Munn: A Chinese delegation last visited the UK as part of the 15th round of the UK-China human rights dialogue in February 2007. The dialogue rotates between London and Beijing and we expect to receive the next Chinese delegation as part of the 17th round in the UK later this year. There have been two UK visits as part of the dialogue in the last three years. In addition, during our presidency of the EU, the UK hosted a third visit in December 2005 as part of the EU-China human rights dialogue. Outside this process, we continue to welcome a range of Chinese delegations with interests in governance and rule of law issues.

Colombia: Radioactive Materials

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of recent claims by the Government of Colombia alleging the intention of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to produce a radioactive explosive; and if he will make a statement. [192975]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the Colombian Government's statement that they have come into the possession of information suggesting that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has been seeking to obtain uranium. It would be a great concern if the FARC, a terrorist organisation proscribed by the EU, was involved in the procurement of radioactive material. We will monitor this situation closely.

Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what rules govern appointments to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals; [193791]

(2) what criteria he applies in appointing members to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals. [193793]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not responsible for the committee or for appointments to the committee. Appointments are made on an ex officio basis. The Secretariat for the committee is based in the Cabinet Office.

Members of the committee serve on an ex officio basis, as follows:

Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood;

Defence Services Secretary;

Permanent Secretary, Home Office;

Permanent Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office,

Her Majesty The Queen's Private Secretary;

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence; and

Head of the Home Civil Service and Cabinet Secretary is the Chair.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how often the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals meets; and where the minutes of its meetings are published. [193792]

Meg Munn: The committee normally transacts business by correspondence. It met three times during 2005 and 2006 to consider papers relating to the programme of reform of the honours system. Minutes are not published.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals uses when making recommendations to Her Majesty on whether foreign campaign medals may be accepted; and whether these criteria have ever been set aside. [193826]

Meg Munn: The criteria are set out in the Government's rules governing the acceptance and wearing of foreign orders, decorations and dedals by citizens of the UK and her overseas territories. The Pingat Jasa Malaysia required a special exception in 2006. Similar exceptions were made for medals from the Saudi and Kuwaiti Governments after the first gulf war, as well as for the Greek War Medal, in 1992.

I will arrange for copies of the rules governing the acceptance and wearing of foreign orders, decorations and medals by citizens of the UK and her overseas territories to be placed in the Library of the House.

Cyprus

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Greek and Turkish governments to encourage reconciliation in Cyprus following the Cypriot presidential election. [193082]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The new Government in Cyprus, and its declared aim of making rapid progress towards a negotiated settlement which reunifies the island, has inspired hope in both communities in Cyprus, and sympathetic interest worldwide. Our contacts with the Governments of Greece and Turkey confirm that they too wish to capitalise on this sense of hope. We will continue to urge all parties with an interest in Cyprus to support the efforts of the UN, and to seize the opportunities presented this year.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the possible impact of the International Criminal Court's investigations of *(a)* Mathieu Ngudjolo, *(b)* Germain Katanga and *(c)* Thomas Lubanga on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [192977]

Meg Munn: The arrests of Mathieu Ngudjolo, Germain Katanga and Thomas Lubanga send a strong message that the international community is determined to hold those guilty of atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to account for their actions. Efforts to prosecute militia leaders who commit the most serious abuses against the civilian population in DRC should continue, both as a matter of justice for their victims and to serve as a deterrent against future acts of violence. There is no evidence that the inquiries into Ngudjolo, Katanga and Lubanga by the International Criminal Court have had any impact on security in DRC.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188220]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), including its agencies, has engaged US registered service providers and subsidiaries of US registered service providers to manage aspects of the storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European economic area by UK data controllers. FCO guidance is designed to ensure that contracts are consistent with UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192378]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) gave to him on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many residential properties his Department owns in the United Kingdom; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192999]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not own any residential property in the United Kingdom.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192113]

Meg Munn: The Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), for its part, supports a wide range of global initiatives—bilateral and multilateral—to tackle the barriers to gender equality including gender stereotyping, violence against women, social and cultural attitudes and discriminatory laws and practices. These initiatives include funding projects overseas which protect and promote women's rights, playing an active role as an elected member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and in other international forums including the EU and the Council of Europe, supporting their respective initiatives on gender equality, and maintaining a regular dialogue with Governments to help improve the human rights situation for women world-wide.

As part of the FCO's gender equality scheme, published in April 2007, the FCO is considering how best to champion world-wide the convention on the elimination of discrimination against women and the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/61/143), adopted in December 2006, on violence against women.

The FCO's view is that gender should not always be seen as an isolated policy area, unconnected to our other work. As such we have sought to mainstream gender into foreign policy, wherever possible and appropriate, by—for example—supporting and encouraging the involvement of women in peace negotiations, reconciliation work and in political and public life more broadly.

In all its work to promote gender equality the FCO works closely with other Government Departments, particularly the Department for International Development and the Department for Communities and Local Government, as well as non- governmental organisations active in this sector and the Women's National Commission.

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187521]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays staff who are absent due to sickness their normal salary initially. Once staff have been absent for six months, within a rolling period of 12 months, they are paid half their normal salary. Staff on sick leave may continue to receive salary at half rate for up to six months in a four-year period before they cease to receive any salary.

In 2007 the FCO paid an estimated total of £2,152,183 in salary to UK-appointed staff during periods when they were absent from work due to sickness. This figure does not include statutory sick pay.

Embassies: Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* foreign embassies which are composite hereditaments and *(b)* domestic properties which are solely occupied by diplomats will be liable to pay charges for the collection of household waste. [193185]

Meg Munn: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is responsible for the Climate Change Bill, including proposed charges for the collection of household rubbish.

Diplomats' liability to pay dues, taxes and charges is dependent on the exact terms of any relevant legislation and our obligations under the 1961 Vienna convention on diplomatic relations. This will be considered at the appropriate stage.

Iran: Oppression

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Iranian government to encourage that government to lift the ban on democratic opposition organisations; and if he will make a statement. [193078]

Meg Munn: Encouraging respect for fundamental human rights and political freedoms is a key element of our approach towards Iran. We do not take sides in Iran's internal political debates—these are for Iranians themselves to resolve—but together with the EU we seek to promote the internationally recognised principles to which many Iranians aspire including freedom of speech and transparent, genuinely democratic and accountable government. Our work to assist the development of civil society around the world will continue in support of this goal. The Iranian people should be given a genuine democratic choice about their country's future.

Iran: Trade Unions

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian government in support of the rights of Iranian trade unionists; and if he will make a statement. [193076]

Meg Munn: We remain concerned about the Iranian Government's action against trade unionists defending workers' rights in Iran. The Government and the EU consistently raise concerns about the repression and detention of labour rights activists with the Iranian authorities. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, (Dr. Howells) expressed our serious concerns to the Iranian ambassador when prominent trade unionist Mansour Ossanlou was arrested last July, The EU presidency, with strong UK support, also expressed concerns about Mr. Ossanlou's situation with the Iranian authorities in Tehran on at least five occasions last year. The EU presidency raised labour activist Mahmoud Salehi's detention at least four times. Mr. Salehi was the subject of a further EU demarche on 22 January and an EU presidency declaration on 28 January. Most recently on the International Trade Union Confederation global day of action in support of Iranian workers on 6 March, my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) issued a statement calling on the Iranian Government to immediately release Mr. Ossanlou and Mr. Salehi and urged Iran to

> "respect fully the right to form or join trade unions, in accordance with its commitments as a member of the International Labour Organisation and the international human rights conventions it has ratified".

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of chemicals used to make explosives and propellants for rockets and bombs being smuggled into Gaza disguised as EU aid; and if he will make a statement. [191137]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports that attempts were made to bring potassium nitrate into Gaza in sugar bags labelled as European Union Aid. The UK welcomes the European Commission's statement on this issue on 30 December 2007 that:

> "Based on the information received, it appears that these bags cannot be confused with any kind of European Union humanitarian aid. We would consider it an isolated criminal act and we condemn it."

The European Union distributes its food aid through UN agencies, rather than directly.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent conflict between Israel and Palestine in Gaza and consequent civilian deaths; and if he will make a statement. [192212]

Meg Munn: The Government remain deeply concerned about the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 2 March, regarding the rise in the number of rocket attacks into Israel. The statement stressed the need for all sides in the conflict, and the international community to keep the political process alive. We also support the UN Secretary-General's call for all parties to step back from the brink of even deeper and more deadly clashes.

The full text of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Fron?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid= 1203947188494.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions his Department issued criticisms of *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah for firing rockets into the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [192473]

Meg Munn: My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) issued statements on 27 and 28 February condemning unreservedly the barrage of rockets on southern Israel from Gaza, that left one man dead and several others injured. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement condemning the rocket attacks on 2 March. There can be no justification for the almost daily rocket and mortar attacks on Sderot and the surrounding area. The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions to stop attacks, including rocket attacks, which target civilians and only escalate an already tense situation. At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm, for the sake of the populations on both sides. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, conveying his deep concerns and condolences on 28 February.

During the 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israel the UK issued numerous statements condemning the firing of rockets by Hezbollah into Israel. During the 2006 conflict we also repeatedly called on Israel to ensure its response was proportionate and avoided civilian casualties. Since the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, we are not aware of any instances when Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions his Department issued criticisms of the response of the government of Israel to rocket attacks by *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [192474]

Meg Munn: We have issued numerous statements on rocket attacks from Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement on 2 March made clear, Israel must ensure its actions in response to rocket and other attacks are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm, for the sake of the populations on both sides. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, conveying his concerns on 28 February.

During the 2006 conflict we also repeatedly called on Israel to ensure its response was proportionate and avoided civilian casualties. Since the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, we are not aware of any instances when Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel.

Details of official statements issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), including an archive, are available in the news section of the FCO website:

www.fco.gov.uk.

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other countries through the UN have organised medical aid to assist the casualties in the recent Gaza-Israel conflict; and if he will make a statement. [193077]

Meg Munn: We are deeply concerned about the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and Southern Israel. In the Gaza strip, emergency medical assistance is mainly provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The Government support the Ministry of Health through the European Commission's funding mechanism known as PEGASE (Palestine European De Gestion Et D'aide Socio-Economique). The Department for International Development has provided £41.6 million to Palestinians in 2007-08 with £18.45 million going through the PEGASE and the temporary international mechanism this financial year. In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross, World Health Organisation and the UN Relief and Works Agency regularly import medicines into the Gaza strip.

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the parties concerned to bring about a Gaza-Israel ceasefire; and if he will make a statement. [193079]

Meg Munn: My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, Dr. Howells, issued statements on 27 February and 28 February about the situation in Gaza and southern Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also issued two statements on 2 March and 6 March condemning the recent violence in Gaza and southern Israel.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken with the Israeli Foreign and Defence Ministers and the President of the Palestinian Authority to convey his deep concerns and condolences. Despite recent difficulties, we urge both parties to resist efforts to derail the peace process and are committed to supporting them in meeting their obligations. We hope to see a swift resumption of negotiations under the Annapolis process.

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to support international action through the United Nations to bring about a Gaza-Israel ceasefire. [193080]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with the UN Secretary-General on 7 March to discuss the recent violence in Gaza and southern Israel. A long-term solution to the crisis in Gaza can only come from a political process. Recent events make it all the more important for the parties, and the international community, to support the Annapolis process. All our efforts are behind this. We are working with all parties who support the two-state solution.

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to encourage the European Union to call for a ceasefire in the Israel-Gaza conflict. [193081]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this issue with his European ministerial colleagues at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 March 2008. The EU continues to play an important political role through its membership of the Quartet (US, UN, EU, Russia) providing political and economic support to the Annapolis process. The EU has consistently called for an end to violence and a peaceful, negotiated two-state solution.

Nigeria: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in Abuja have had with the Government of Nigeria on the failure of peace talks with militant groups in the Niger delta; and if he will make a statement. [192978]

Meg Munn: Our high commissioner in Abuja discussed the situation in the Niger delta with President Yar'Adua in January. Following this, and ongoing discussion with Nigerian Government officials in Abuja and London, we are not aware that dialogue between the Nigerian Government and militant groups in the Niger delta has come to an end. A meeting on the Gulf of Guinea energy security strategy (to include UK and Nigerian Government representatives) is scheduled for later this month and there are still plans for a Niger delta summit, which would engage the Nigerian Government and communities in the region in structured dialogue.

Nigeria: Peace Negotiations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided to the government of Nigeria on (i) President Umaru Yar' Adua's peace initiative in Niger delta and (ii) a renewed attempt to initiate peace talks; and if he will make a statement. [193020]

Meg Munn: It is important that the Nigerian authorities provide a strong lead in finding a solution to the problems of the Niger delta. However, the UK remains open to discussing ways in which we can add value. The underlying causes of the crisis in the delta remain poor governance, instability and underdevelopment All of these must be addressed if a sustainable peace is to be realised. The UK has offered its support in all these areas and continues to encourage the Nigerian government to address the situation in the Niger delta as a priority. The UK supports a number of projects in the Niger delta, including on community empowerment and government transparency. We continue to urge all parties to engage in peaceful dialogue towards the resolution of the problems of the Niger delta.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the peace talks between the Nigeria Government and militant groups in the Niger delta; what assessment his Department has made of the possibility of the re-engagement of all parties in peace talks; and if he will make a statement. [193021]

Meg Munn: We are aware of ongoing discussion between the Nigerian Government and various militant groups in the Niger delta. The UK will continue to urge all parties to engage in peaceful dialogue towards the resolution of the problems of the Niger delta.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the abduction of a German construction worker in the Niger delta; how many UK citizens are *(a)* working and *(b)* resident in the Niger delta; what assessment his Department has made of the security situation in the Niger delta since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [193019]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received reports that a German national was kidnapped approximately 30 km west of Port Harcourt on 4 March 2008. He was taken into creeks in the Niger delta but was released 12 hours later into state security service custody. Three members of his escort team were killed during the abduction attack. Currently 803 British nationals are registered with our high commission in Abuja as residing in the Niger delta (Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa states). Most of these residents work in the oil industry. Registration with our high commission is voluntary, though the high commission has an ongoing strategy to encourage UK nationals to register.

The abduction of the German national on 4 March 2008 was the first kidnap of an expatriate in the Niger delta since 21 October 2007. Since January 2006, however, 36 British nationals, including one child, and more than 180 other foreign nationals have been kidnapped in the Niger Delta area, with one British national being killed. Despite the lull in expatriate kidnappings since October 2007, kidnappings of Nigerian nationals have continued, as have threats and attacks against oil installations The FCO continues to advise against all travel to the Niger delta (Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states, including Port Harcourt) and advises British nationals in these states to leave. We also advise against all travel to riverine areas of Cross River state and against all but essential travel to Akwa Ibom state because of the high risk of kidnapping, armed robbery and other armed attacks.

Treaty of Lisbon: Referendums

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government has obtained from surveys and opinion polls on the opinions of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* the public on a referendum on amendments to the European treaties. [192846]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not obtained any information from surveys and opinion polls on the opinion of hon. Members on a referendum Lisbon treaty.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not commissioned any opinion polling on the Lisbon treaty.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the possible impact of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) investigation of Joseph Kony on *(a)* the possibility of a peace agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda, *(b)* the credibility and effectiveness of the ICC and *(c)* possible peace and reconciliation efforts in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [192976]

Meg Munn: The Government strongly support the International Criminal Court and believe that its investigation in Uganda has helped to bring the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to the negotiating table. We welcome the progress made by the Government of Uganda and the LRA and are encouraged by reports that the two sides will sign a final peace agreement by the end of the month. Justice is an essential part of a sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* operational control, *(b)* administrative control, *(c)* technical control and *(d)* other command relationship there is between British and non-British forces operating in Helmand Province at the (i) company and (ii) platoon level; and what the nationality is of each unit. [193878]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Permanently operating in Helmand within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) command structure under the operational control of Task Force Helmand, a British HQ, are deployments from:

Denmark (a battle group)
Estonia (a single company)

A number of small specialist units from other nations also come under the Command of Commander Task Force Helmand. Other non-UK units may, on occasion, temporarily deploy into Helmand province for specific missions: the precise command relationships with these units will vary dependent on the specific nature of their operational taskings.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) currently deploys five units of battalion size or greater, which include many companies and platoons, in Helmand province. Their operations are closely coordinated with ISAF operations, including through the use of Operational Mentoring, Liaison and Training Teams, although there is no formal command relationship between ISAF and ANA units.

Armed Forces: EU Institutions

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2052W, on the armed forces: EU institutions, who the permanent Chairman of the EU Military Committee is. [193156]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current permanent chairman of the EU Military Committee is General Henri Bentégeat.

Information about the EU Military Committee can be found on the Council of the EU website at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance his Department has issued to the base commander at RAF Wittering on service personnel wearing uniforms off base; when such guidance was issued; what the evidential basis for the guidance was; and if he will make a statement. [194050]

Derek Twigg: No additional guidance was issued other than the existing rules set out in Queen's Regulations chapter 6 'Uniform and Dress' (last amended February 2005) and Air Publication 1358 'Uniform, Dress and Appearance Regulations' (last amended February 2008) and Joint Service Publication 440 'Defence Manual of Security' (last updated July 2007). This gives Station Commanders the discretion, where appropriate, to instruct their personnel not to wear service uniform off base.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department consulted *(a)* Cambridgeshire Constabulary, *(b)* Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and *(c)* Peterborough city council before issuing advice to RAF Wittering on the wearing of service uniforms off base. [194051]

Derek Twigg: The RAF did consult with Cambridgeshire Constabulary regarding the issue of the wearing of uniform off base. Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Peterborough city council were not involved in this process. Having been briefed on the background to this action, the Mayor of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire police issued a joint statement on 11 March supporting the decision.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each Corps of the Army in the latest period for which figures are available. [193097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my answers on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 3W, and on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 523-24W.

No significant unit deployments have taken place since these answers were given and nothing has therefore changed in the meantime that would affect average tour interval calculations.

British Overseas Territories: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers are stationed in British overseas territories. [193408]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There were 2,100 UK Regular Army personnel (230 officers and 1,860 other ranks) stationed in British overseas territories[1] as at 1 April 2007.

[1] Includes all UK Regular Army personnel stationed in Cyprus.

Challenger Tanks: Repairs and Maintenance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2807W, on Challenger tanks: repairs and maintenance, when the next order for full vehicle sets of track is due; when the order will be placed; how many full vehicle sets of track will be ordered; and what the cost will be. [193963]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We expect to place an order, for 48 full vehicle sets, in August 2008 for delivery at eight sets per month from February 2009. The total cost will be approximately £2.688 million.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2053W, on the Committee of Permanent Representatives, how many European security and defence policy matters were considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives II in 2007. [193153]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives II is to prepare the work of the Council of Ministers of the European Union. All issues considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives II are covered in the Government's routine scrutiny and reporting arrangements in Parliament for European Union matters.

The following agenda items relating to European Security and Defence Policy matters were considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives II as "I points" (agreed without discussion) in 2007:

	Agenda item
31 January 2007	ATHENA—Review 2006 Force Catalogue 07 Draft EU Training Programme in the field of ESDP 2007 to 2009
7 February 2007	Approval of the Crisis management concept concerning the future crisis management operation in Afghanistan
21 March 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Council Joint Action extending the mandate of the EU Team to contribute to the preparations of the establishment of a possible international Civilian Mission in Kosovo, including a European Union Special Representative component (ICM/EUSR Preparation Team)
3 April 2007	Draft European Union Exercise Programme 2008-12
18 April 2007	Council Decision implementing Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan with regard to the inclusion of a military support element providing assistance to the setting up of the African Union Mission in Somalia AMISOM) Approval of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the ESDP Mission in Afghanistan
10 May 2007	Strengthening African Capabilities Action Proposals in view of the reinforcement of the partnership between Africa and the European Union in the area of African capabilities to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts Recommendations from PSC to Council Single Progress Report on the Development of EU Military capabilities Draft Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the ESDP SSR Police Mission and its interface with justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

	Agenda item
	Draft revised general concept on continuation of the mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUSEC DR Congo)
	Analysis of Lessons from Operation EUFOR RD Congo
	Draft Council Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU Planning Team EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of Rule of Law and possible other areas in Kosovo
	Draft Joint Action on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
16 May 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP on establishing a European Union border
	Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)
23 May 2007	Political and Security Committee Decision EUPT/1/2007 extending the mandate of the Head of the EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo
	Publication in the Official Journal
30 May 2007	Joint Action on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
6 June 2007	Operation Plan (OPLAN) for the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
	Draft Joint Statement on UN-EU co-operation in Crisis Management
	Draft Council Joint Action on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUSEC RD Congo)
	Joint Action on the establishment of the ESDP SSR Police Mission and its interface with justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (EUPOL RD Congo)
14 June 2007	Operational Plan (OPLAN) for the Police Mission developed in the framework of ESDP on the security sector reform (SSR) and its interface with Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (EUPOL RD Congo)
	Draft Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management
	Secretary General/High Representative's European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Review Report
	Secretary General/High Representative's Fifth Operation ALTHEA Six Monthly Review Report
	Draft Presidency Report on ESDP
	Approval of draft Exercise Specifications (EXSPEC) for MILEX 08/CPX
27 June 2007	Operational Plan (OPLAN) for the Police Mission developed in the framework of ESDP on the security sector reform (SSR) and its interface with Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (EUPOL RD Congo)
	Draft Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management
	Secretary General/High Representative's European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Review Report
	Secretary General/High Representative's Fifth Operation ALTHEA Six Monthly Review Report
	Draft Presidency Report on ESDP

	Agenda item
	Approval of draft Exercise Specifications (EXSPEC) for MILEX 08/CPX
12 July 2007	Council Joint Action extending and amending Joint Action 2006/623/CFSP on the establishment of a EU-team to contribute to the preparations of the establishment of a possible international civilian mission in Kosovo, including a European Union Special Representative component (ICM/EUSR Preparation Team)
	Draft Revised Implementing Plan (OPLAN) of EUSEC RD Congo mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
19 July 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU Planning Team EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo
	Council Decision on the financial rules of the European Defence Agency and on the procurement rules and rules on financial contributions from the operational budget of the European Defence Agency
	Adoption
12 September 2007	Draft Model Agreement on the status of the European Union Civilian Crisis Management Mission in a Host State (SOMA)
	Revised Draft Model Agreement on the status of the European Union-led forces between the European Union and a Host State
	Authorisation to open negotiations in accordance with Article 24 of the TEU in case of future EU military crisis management operations
19 September 2007	Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Croatia on the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
27 September 2007	Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on the participation of New Zealand in the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
17 October 2007	Council Decision implementing Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union missions in the Darfur region of Sudan and Somalia
	Draft Concept of Operations (CONOPS)for the follow-on Mission o the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
24 October 2007	Approval of the Exercise Specification for the EU Crisis Management Exercise 2008 (CME 08)
	Political and Security Committee Decision concerning the appointment of the Head of Mission of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN
	Political and Security Committee Decision BiH/10/2007 on the appointment of an EU Operation Commander for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Political and Security Committee Decision BiH/11/2007 on the appointment of an EU Force Commander for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Political and Security Committee Decision BiH/12/2007 on the appointment of the Head of the EU Command Element at Naples for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Authorisation for publication in the Official Journal

	Agenda item
7 November 2007	Council Joint Action of amending Joint Action 2004/570/CFSP on the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina Political and Security Committee Decision concerning the extension of the mandate of the Head of Mission/Police Commissioner of the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) Publication in the Official Journal Draft Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)
15 November 2007	Progress Catalogue 2007 Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007 Draft Ministerial Declaration Draft Policy Paper on a Civilian ESDP Capability Planning Process Final Report on the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 New Civilian Headline Goal 2010 Council Joint Action on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations), on 19-20 November 2007 Draft Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States within the Council on Security and Development
21 November 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP on the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX Draft Council Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU Crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo Approval of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for EUPOL AFGHANISTAN
28 November 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) Draft Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP on establishing a European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah) Council Decision 2007/..../CFSP amending Council Decision 2006/807/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories Council Decision implementing JA 2007/..../CFSP on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
5 December 2007	Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the European Union Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah) Political and Security Committee Decision concerning the extension of the mandate of the Head of Mission/Police Commissioner of the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina Request for a COREPER decision authorising publication in the Official Journal Single Progress Report on the Development of EU Military Capabilities Draft General Concept for potential ESDP action in support of Guinea Bissau Security Sector Reform Secretary General/High Representative's Report on the Sixth Operation ALTHEA Six monthly review Draft Presidency Report on ESDP Draft Council conclusions on the Operation ALTHEA
19 December 2007	Draft Council Joint Action amending Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP of 12 July 2004 on the establishment of the European Defence Agency Council Joint Action repealing Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan Adoption Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission undertaken in the framework of reform of the security sector (SSR) and its interface with the system of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo) Political and Security Committee Decision EUPOL AFGH/2/2007 of 30 November 2007 on the establishment of the Committee of Contributors for the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN) Authorisation for publication Political and Security Committee Decision concerning the appointment of the Head of the European Union Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo)

The following agenda items relating to European Security and Defence Policy matters were considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives II as "II points" (items scheduled for debate) in 2007:

	Agenda item
10 May 2007	European Defence Agency—Report by the Head of the Agency to the Council on the EDA's Activities ESDP Draft Council conclusions
3 October 2007	Draft Council Joint Action on the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic
11 October 2007	Chad/Central African Republic/Sudan Draft Council Joint Action on the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic
15 November 2007	ESDP Draft Council conclusions SG/HR Report on the EUMS ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations European Defence Agency Report by the Head of the Agency to the Council Council Guidelines for the EDA's work in 2008 Approval of guidelines for the Agency's agenda in 2008 Three-year financial framework 2008-10 2008 Budget

All items both "I points" and "II points", are agreed by unanimity.

Commonwealth: Army

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from other Commonwealth countries are serving in the British Army. [193362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 1 January 2008 there were 5,940 trained regular personnel, of which 170 were officers and 5,770 were soldiers, with a Commonwealth nationality other than British Commonwealth recorded.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2010W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) which gives a further breakdown by country of personnel with a Commonwealth nationality.

Defence Equipment

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that the armed forces have the most up-to-date equipment; and if he will make a statement. [191420]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD takes all measures possible to ensure that the equipment issued to the armed forces meets their requirements. The quality and versatility of the equipment issued to the armed forces is better than it has ever been and we are continually working to improve the range and reliability of all types of equipment.

The Defence Technology Strategy published in 2006 and the Defence Technology Plan announced in November 2007 provide clear direction in bringing the benefits of advanced technology rapidly to the frontline.

In addition the urgent operational requirement process continues to deliver new equipment with the speed and flexibility needed to adapt and respond to specific operational environments and emerging threats.

Eastern Europe: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the military forces of *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Croatia and *(c)* Macedonia are capable of interoperability with those of other European states. [194425]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Albania, Croatia and Macedonia are each participating in a NATO membership action plan, a programme of advice, assistance and practical co-operation designed to help them in their preparations for potential membership and in their drive to meet NATO standards, including their ability to contribute to collective defence and participate in NATO missions. Their progress is assessed by the North Atlantic Council against Annual National Programmes under five chapters: political, economic, defence, resource, security and legal aspects. Decisions on their readiness for NATO membership will be made at the Bucharest Summit in April. Albania, Croatia and Macedonia are already operating alongside NATO nations and their partners, making a valuable contribution to ISAF in Afghanistan.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2053W, on EU defence policy, how many times votes took place under qualified majority voting in the European Defence Agency; and on what topics. [193180]

Des Browne: Three votes have taken place in the European Defence Agency (EDA) using Qualified Majority Voting. These were:

an amendment to the Staff Regulations on parental and family leave; the deletion of Chapter III of the Draft Revised EDA Procurement Rules; and the insertion of a paragraph on conciliation in the Draft Revised EDA Procurement Rules.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189501]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 has been variously supported by food and drink outlets serving staff in MOD buildings. This support has included the use of Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 promotional materials and offering incentives to buy fair trade products, such as special offers and tasting events.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria have been decided for the design of the Future Surface Combatant; and when he will determine the number of ships which will be required for this programme. [193138]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 March 2008]*: The Future Surface Combatant is at the early stages of concept design and the detailed criteria have yet to be defined. The number of ships required will be determined when the programme is more mature.

Iraq: Apache AH-64 Helicopter

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new British Apache AH Mk1 helicopters were in service in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since British forces were engaged in each of these countries. [193368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested for Afghanistan as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. British Apache helicopters have never been in service in Iraq.

Iraq: Defence Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many coroners' reports have cited insufficient equipment as a factor in deaths of soldiers in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [193413]

Des Browne: Of the 136 inquests that have been held into the deaths of soldiers who have died during the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, two narrative verdicts have been recorded following deaths in Iraq where equipment was raised as an issue by the coroner.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2002; and how many have received a medal in recognition of that service. [193517]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There have been 112,875 campaign medals issued for service on Operation Telic and 49,078 campaign medals issued for service on Operations Veritas and Herrick, since operations began.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many VIPs his Department escorted in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last 12 months. [190649]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table below shows the number of VIP[1] visits arranged under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence to Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last twelve months for which information is available.

[1] On visits to operational theatres, a VIP is defined as either a member of the senior civil service or Crown servant equivalent; a military officer at or above the rank of Commodore RN, Brigadier, or Air Commodore; a Member of the House of Commons or of the House of Lords who is not a Member of the Cabinet; or a civilian of a similar status to the preceding individuals. Members of the Royal Family and Members of the Cabinet, or equivalent, are classified as VVIPs.

Number of VIP visits

	Iraq	*Afghanistan*
February 2007	10	10
March 2007	10	8
April 2007	11	6
May 2007	3	12
June 2007	13	10
July 2007	9	11
August 2007	5	12
September 2007	12	5
October 2007	13	0
November 2007	4	13
December 2007	7	9
January 2008	9	11

This data relates to the number of visits involving VIPs rather than the actual number of VIP visitors: in some cases, any one particular visit may involve more than one VIP.

This data relates solely to those VIP visits organised by the UK Ministry of Defence: UK units in these theatres also receive many VIP visitors from other nations, as well as UK VIPs whose trips are organised separately (including through the NATO system).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security situation in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Maysan, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Al Muthanna provinces. [190712]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have nothing to add to the answer my right hon. Friend, the Defence Secretary gave on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1447 to the hon. Member for Harwich (Mr. Carswell).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Basra City. [190724]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1447, to the hon. Member for Harwich (Mr. Carswell).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services stationed in Iraq were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured in Iraq in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age, (iii) regiment and (iv) service. [190801]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 25 February 2008, 173 UK service personnel have died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries sustained in Iraq. Of the 173 service personnel who have died, information for two soldiers have not been publicly released and thus their detailed information has been excluded from the following tables. This is consistent with the order of the coroner. In the event that this order changes, I will inform the House.

Since the start of operations in 2003, six female UK service personnel have died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries sustained in Iraq.

A breakdown of fatalities by age and by year is provided in the following table:

Table 1: Operational fatalities in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by age and calendar year, number, 2003-07

	All	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	173	52	22	23	29	47
<20 years	14	4	2	1	2	5
20-24	50	10	8	5	6	21
25-29	44	12	6	4	12	10
30-34	34	15	6	5	4	4
35-39	20	9	0	5	3	3
40+	9	2	0	3	2	2
Not released	2	0	0	0	0	2

A breakdown of fatalities by corps/unit and by year is provided in the following table:

Table 2: Operational fatalities in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by corp¹/unit and calendar year, number, 2003-07

Service	*Corps/unit*	*All*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	All	173	52	22	23	29	47
Naval Service²	1 Assault Group	2	2	0	0	0	0
	3 Commando Brigade	9	7	0	0	2	0
	847 Naval Air Squadron	2	0	0	0	2	0
	849 Naval Air Squadron	6	6	0	0	0	0
Army	Army Air Corps	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	5	1	3	0	0	1
	Corps of Royal Engineers	3	2	1	0	0	0
	Corps of Royal Military Police	12	9	1	1	0	1
	Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	9	1	0	0	2	6
	Foot Guards	8	2	1	2	0	3
	Household Cavalry	3	3	0	0	0	0
	Intelligence Corps	2	0	0	1	1	0
	Mercian Regiment	5	0	1	3	0	1
	Parachute Regiment	6	1	0	0	3	2
	Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	2	0	2	0	0	0
	Royal Anglian Regiment	2	0	0	0	2	0
	Royal Armoured Corps	14	3	0	1	5	5
	Royal Army Medical Corps	3	0	0	0	1	2
	Royal Corps of Signals	5	1	0	2	1	1
	Royal Logistic Corps	5	2	0	0	0	3
	Royal Regiment of Artillery	8	3	1	0	4	0
	Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	5	1	0	4	0	0
	Royal Regiment of Scotland	14	3	8	0	1	2
	The Rifles	13	0	2	0	2	9
	The Royal Welsh	5	1	1	0	0	3
	Yorkshire Regiment	1	0	0	0	0	1
RAF	1 Squadron RAF Regiment	3	0	0	0	0	3
	16 Squadron	1	1	0	0	0	0
	230 Squadron	1	0	0	0	0	1
	28 Army Co-operation Squadron	2	0	0	0	2	0
	33 Squadron	1	0	1	0	0	0
	47 Squadron	5	0	0	5	0	0
	504 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Engineering Wing, RAF Lyneham	3	0	0	3	0	0
	HQ STC Air Staff	1	0	0	1	0	0
	IX (B) Squadron	2	2	0	0	0	0
	RAF Police	1	1	0	0	0	0
Information not released		2	0	0	0	0	2

[1] The breakdown for Army Corps is presented for the current Army structure (following the merger of many regiments over the last few years).

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

A breakdown of fatalities by service and by year is provided in the following table:

Table 3: Operational fatalities in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by service and calendar year, numbers, 2003-07

	All	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	173	52	22	23	29	47
Naval Service¹	19	15	0	0	4	0
Army	131	33	21	14	23	40
RAF	21	4	1	9	2	5
Not released	2	0	0	0	0	2

Table 3: Operational fatalities in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by service and calendar year, numbers, 2003-07

[1] Naval service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

As at 31 December 2007, 212 UK Service personnel have been very seriously or seriously injured while on deployment in Iraq. Details which can be released without potential disclosure of individual identities include:

Since the start of operations in 2003, six female UK service personnel have been very seriously or seriously injured while on deployment in Iraq.

A breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured personnel by age and by year is provided in the following table:

Table 4: Operational very serious and seriously injured[1] personnel in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by age and calendar year, number, 2003-07

	All	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	212	46	45	20	32	69
<20 years	39	8	10	2	7	12
20-24	71	14	17	10	12	18
25-29	44	11	8	3	8	14
30-34	26	7	5	2	3	9
35-39	24	4	4	2	2	12
40+	8	2	1	1	0	4

[1] Excluding natural causes.

Information on the breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured by regiment (or other service equivalent) cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

A breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured personnel by service and by year is provided in the following table:

Table 5: Operational very serious and seriously injured[1] personnel in Iraq: UK armed forces personnel, by service and calendar year, number, 2003-07

	All	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	212	46	45	20	32	69
Naval Service[2]	6	2	0	0	3	1
Army	189	40	42	19	28	60
RAF	17	4	3	1	1	8

[1] Excluding natural causes.
[2] Naval service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Information on slight injuries is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2349W, on Iraq peacekeeping operations, what methodology was used to formulate his answer on 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1084, on Iraq; and why the information requested in the question on Iraq peacekeeping operations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. [193161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Exact figures on how many non-infantry personnel have served in an infantry role in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003 are not held centrally as currently this information is not required for management purposes. The methodology used in the answer on 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1084W, took the average number of non-infantry sub-units serving in an infantry role per deployment and multiplied this by both the number of deployments and the strength of a typical sub unit; this enabled a rough estimate figure to be provided. Adopting the same approach produces figures of approximately 7,260 and 330 for Iraq and Afghanistan respectively since 2003.

It is not unusual for non-infantry personnel to deploy in an infantry role as every soldier in the Army is trained in the infantry role first, and as a specialist second. When such individuals or units do deploy in an infantry role, they will also undertake similar pre-deployment training as their infantry counterparts.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from British *(a)* Crown dependencies and *(b)* overseas territories have served in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since the campaigns began. [193404]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since each campaign began. [193405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much UK military operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan (i) have cost to date and (ii) are expected to cost in each of the next three years. [193409]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historic net additional costs of Operations Herrick (Afghanistan) and Telic (Iraq) which have been recovered from the Treasury Reserve are set out as follows The figures include estimated costs for 2007-08.

£ million

	Herrick (from 2001-02)	*Telic (from 2002-03)*
Audited figures up to financial year 2006-07	1,582	4,982
Financial year 2007-08 (estimate)	1,649	1,648
Total	3,231	6,630

Our initial indications for additional cost of operations in 2008-09 is at least £2 billion. This figure will be updated in both winter and spring supplementary estimates. The highly changeable nature of operations means that we are not able to provide accurate forecast costs for operations for either 2009-10 or 2010-11.

Military Equipment: Iraq

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1601W, on military equipment: Iraq, on what dates the *(a)* sets of body armour, *(b)* AK47 assault rifles, *(c)* underslung grenade launchers for AK47s and *(d)* 9mm pistols were gifted to Iraqi forces in 2005. [185659]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the specific dates of gifting for individual items of equipment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure nuclear warhead convoys do not travel on motorways that do not have a hard shoulder reserved for emergencies. [193488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Routes for nuclear weapon convoys are subject to a rigorous selection process. The safety and security of the convoy is carefully considered at all stages of this process and all routes are regularly re-assessed. It is MOD policy, however, not to comment on the routes used by nuclear convoys, as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Radar: Wind Power

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of wind farms on the UK's aerial defences. [193971]

Derek Twigg: We continually assess the UK's aerial defences to ensure that operational requirements are met.

Reserve Forces: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow, *(b)* outflow and *(c)* voluntary outflow rates were for the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Naval Reserve, (iii) Royal Marines Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force in the latest period for which figures are available. [193092]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide Territorial Army rates or actual figures by outflow reason as the information is not captured in this way. The following table shows total intake and outflow for Territorial personnel during the period 1 January 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Inflow and outflow of the Territorial Army[1] by calendar year

Calendar year	*Inflow[2]*	*Outflow[3]*
2006	8,560	9,920
2007 (1 January to 28 February)[4]	1,020	1,700

[1] The data exclude Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) and Mobilised TA but includes the Officer Training Corps (OTC).
[2] Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.
[3] Outflow figures exclude those personnel who became mobilised.
[4] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new joint personnel administration (JPA) System, there is no TA information available since 1 March 2007. *Note*:
Note:
The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

It is not possible to provide Royal Naval Reserve or Royal Marine Reserve rates or actual figures by outflow reason as this information is not captured in this way. The following table shows total intake and outflow for the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marines Reserve.

Inflow and outflow of the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve, 1 April 2007 to 29 February 2008

	Inflow	*Outflow*
Royal Marine Reserve	300	240
Royal Naval Reserve	140	280

Note:
The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

It is not possible to provide Royal Auxiliary Air Force rates or actual figures by outflow reason as the information is not captured in this way. The following table shows total attestations and discharges in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2007.

Inflow and outflow of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force[1] by financial year

Financial year	*Inflow[2]*	*Outflow*
2006-07	320	280
1 April 2007 to 30 September	170	150

[1] The data include part-time volunteer reserves (PTVR) only.
[2] Inflow figures include all inflow, e.g. intake from civil life and transfers from other units within the armed forces.
Note:
The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Roger Buston

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why an inquiry was conducted into the conduct of Lieutenant Colonel Roger Buston; what the length and cost of conducting the inquiry was; whether the inquiry reached conclusions; and if he will make a statement. [190961]

Derek Twigg: The inquiry followed a formal complaint lodged by the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell), about the involvement of an Officer in the Territorial Army in local political activities. The inquiry took approximately 38 man-hours to complete at an estimated cost of £1,000. The recommendation of the inquiry was that there was no breach of Queen's Regulations and that no action should be taken against any individual.

Treaty of Lisbon: Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Lisbon Treaty gives the new EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs powers to propose military operations. [193160]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We expect that if the Lisbon treaty is ratified by all EU member states, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be able to make proposals, including proposing military operations. But any proposals made will be made to the Council of the European Union who will make any decisions and will do so only by unanimity.

Trident Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of progress in refurbishing the W76 warheads for Trident missiles, with particular reference to manufacturing processes for Fogbank; and if he will make a statement. [193516]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK does not assemble or refurbish W76 nuclear warheads. It is MOD policy not to comment on nuclear warhead design, as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Type 23 Frigate

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outturn cost was of each Type 23 frigate in *(a)* cash and *(b)* constant 2007 prices; and who the manufacturer was of each. [192989]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the original hull costs of each Type 23 frigate and those same values estimated at 2007 prices. Other costs, such as those for Government furnished equipment, are not held centrally for each ship and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The table also shows the hull manufacturer for each of the Type 23 frigates and
the date each ship was commissioned.

Ship	*Original Hull cost (£ m)*	*2007 Price (estimated) (£ m)*	*Manufacturer*	*Commissioned date*
HMS Argyll	118.95	175.70	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1991
HMS Lancaster	119.71	170.82	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1992
HMS Iron Duke	109.77	151.10	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1993
HMS Monmouth	111.66	153.70	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1993
HMS Montrose	117.29	157.55	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1994
HMS Westminster	112.68	151.35	Swan Hunter	1994
HMS Northumberland	114.73	154.10	Swan Hunter	1994
HMS Somerset	114.14	143.71	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1996
HMS Richmond	116.20	150.25	Swan Hunter	1995
HMS Portland	92.06	109.01	Marconi Marine	2001
HMS Sutherland	143.58	175.81	Harrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1997
HMS St Albans	106.82	124.99	BAE Systems	2002
HMS Kent	108.42	128.26	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	2000
HMS Norfolk	112.03	174.41	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1990
HMS Grafton	115.56	141.50	Yarrow Shipbuilder Ltd	1997
HMS Marlborough	118.43	174.93	Swan Hunter	1991

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it remains his policy to retain for the long-term a fleet of 25 destroyers and frigates. [193137]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 March 2008]*: While the Defence programme is regularly reviewed and updated, we currently plan to retain a fleet of 25 destroyers and frigates. The number of ships in service at any given time will vary as the older Type 42 destroyers are replaced by the more capable Type 45s.

Warships: Sales

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships have been sold to foreign Governments since 2004; and what the sale price was in each case. [193094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following list contains all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships sold on a Government-to-Government basis:

Date of the contract of sale	*Sold to*	*Price (£ million)*
Financial year 2004-05	None	—
Financial year 2005-06 HMS Norfolk HMS Grafton HMS Marlborough	Chile	134
Financial year 2006-07 HMS Sandown HMS Inverness HMS Bridport	Estonia	32
Financial year 2007-08 RFA Sir Galahad	Brazil	5.2

The above sale price figures represent the total revenue for the MOD and industry together. For those vessels sold on a Government-to-Government basis there is usually an agreement with industry for regeneration and modernisation work.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 14 March 2008

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average spend per patient by each cancer network was in England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [194177]

Ann Keen: The following tables show estimated cancer spend per 100,000 unified weighted population by cancer networks between 2003-04 and 2006-07.

The information for 2006-07 takes account of network changes of the period as well as changes in primary care trust boundaries.

Information on the average cancer spend per patient by each cancer network is not available.

Estimated cancer spend per 100,000 unified weighted population by cancer network

Cancer network	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
3 Counties	7,352,905	8,803,135	9,605,444
Arden	5,946,311	7,869,109	8,143,444
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	7,322,342	7,951,176	9,110,814
Black Country	5,466,811	7,154,351	7,215,802
Central South Coast	6,454,941	7,514,424	7,905,812
Derby/Burton	6,105,247	7,651,118	8,551,917
Dorset	8,410,611	8,095,934	8,999,355
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	5,929,702	6,890,628	8,391,498
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	6,538,239	7,656,806	9,089,945
Kent and Medway	6,856,214	7,892,461	8,728,802
Lancashire and South Cumbria	6,711,127	7,616,983	8,321,579
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	5,939,039	7,444,614	8,545,102
Merseyside and Cheshire	4,828,824	5,896,231	7,266,085
Mid Anglia	7,342,966	8,736,832	10,177,584
Mid Trent	6,986,351	8,463,279	9,501,574
Mount Vernon	5,674,107	6,666,115	7,235,566
Norfolk and Waveney	7,922,431	9,403,802	10,000,083
North East London	5,540,609	6,775,849	6,873,358
North London	6,616,266	7,800,055	8,197,962
North Trent	6,426,320	7,756,204	8,462,155
North West Midlands	5,964,855	6,310,657	7,424,388
Northern	5,951,231	7,911,981	8,598,384
Pan Birmingham	5,896,215	6,198,081	7,881,867
Peninsula	7,717,605	8,722,304	10,072,957
South-east London	5,307,468	7,329,549	7,838,521
South Essex	6,772,353	7,549,734	7,701,955
South-west London	7,460,896	7,865,838	7,994,424
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	7,537,915	8,442,021	8,510,842
Sussex	6,023,842	7,000,668	7,689,727
Teesside, South Durham and North Yorkshire	6,127,683	6,888,277	7,731,358
Thames Valley	6,598,528	7,547,632	8,312,444
West Anglia	6,954,469	7,868,446	9,438,327
West London	6,609,489	6,913,761	6,803,347
Yorkshire	6,832,843	8,261,949	8,664,021

Notes:
1. Figures for 2003 -04 are for primary care trust (PCT) net spend.
2. Figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are PCT Net spend by population.
3. Where a PCT falls under the responsibility of two cancer networks, the totality of their expenditure is included in both cancer networks' figures.

Estimated cancer spend per 100,000 unified weighted population by cancer network

Cancer network	*2006-07*
Anglia	8,042,243
Arden	9,099,693
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	8,415,338
Central South Coast	8,543,103
Derby/Burton	8,407,591
Dorset	9,672,039
Essex	7,592,103
Greater Manchester and Cheshire	8,355,187
Greater Midlands	8,308,205
Humber and Yorkshire coast	8,824,434
Kent and Medway	8,034,291
Lancashire and South Cumbria	8,674,769
Leicester	8,304,508
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	8,965,735
Merseyside and Cheshire	8,022,190
Mid Trent	10,037,619
Mount Vernon	6,312,047
North-east London	6,824,097
North London	7,195,893
North of England	8,524,982
North Trent	8,099,633
Pan Birmingham	8,050,154
Peninsula	7,775,190
South-east London	7,012,894
South-west London	8,717,608
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	9,215,183
Sussex	7,691,610
Thames Valley	8,199,193
West London	6,142,160
Yorkshire	9,139,579

Notes:
1. Figures are PCT net spend by population.
2. Where a PCT falls under the responsibility of two cancer networks, the totality of their expenditure is included in both cancer networks' figures.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2854W, on Chlamydia screening, what performance management routes are being used by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [194384]

Dawn Primarolo: The performance management routes being used are through regular and frequent discussions with strategic health authorities who are accountable for delivery among their organisations.

Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards ensuring third sector organisations providing services in *(a)* Lincolnshire and *(b)* England are awarded three-year contracts. [193319]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the proportion of contracts awarded to third sector providers that are for three years is not collected centrally. However, the Department fully supports the expectation that Government Departments pass on the certainty of longer-term funding, where appropriate, to the third sector organisations that they and their agencies fund.

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has proposed a staged approach to implementing three-year funding. The Department will work between now and 31 October 2008, to establish the arrangements needed to ensure reporting in 2009 on the proportion of funding arrangements between primary care trusts (PCTs) and third sector organisations that allow for three year funding, that do not impose unnecessary burdens on PCTs.

The 2008-09 NHS Operating Framework included the message that PCTs should not feel prevented from entering into three year agreements with local partners including small and medium enterprises and the third sector that establish practical measures to maximise their capacity to deliver health and well-being outcomes.

Hospices: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospices in England received funding from his Department in the last 12 months. [194379]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide the level of funding they allocate to end-of-life-care services, including hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for negotiation between the local PCT and the hospice.

In September 2006, the Government established a £40 million capital fund, which adult hospices were able to bid for to improve their physical environments. The funding has been made available as part of the dignity in care for older people work, although it will benefit all adult patients using hospice facilities. In April 2007, Ministers announced that 146 hospices, with 191 projects, had been allocated funding from the fund.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the review of Part IX of the drug tariff in 2008; and what the total cost of the review has been to date. [194455]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2008, the Department has spent £125,000 on the Part IX Review of the Drug Tariff up to 31 January, which is the latest figure available.

The total cost of the review to date is £2.25 million.

NHS: Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS will seek reimbursement from pharmaceutical manufacturers for expenditure on ineffective Select Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors. [193485]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to seek reimbursement from pharmaceutical manufacturers in respect of Select Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs).

The Committee on Safety of Medicines Expert Working Group on the safety of SSRIs undertook a comprehensive review of the safety of this entire class of drugs, examining all available evidence and reviewing all the regulatory advice issued. In December 2004, it concluded that the balance of risks and benefits of all SSRIs in adults remains positive in their licensed indications; however prescribers and patients should be more aware of the side effect profile of these medicines and the need for close monitoring of patients being treated for depressive illness or anxiety disorders.

NHS: Stress

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual cost of stress-related illness to the NHS. [194274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Palliative Care

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms his Department maintains standards in care plans for people in receipt of end of life care. [194377]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Supportive and Palliative Care Guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends that assessment and discussion of patients' needs for physical, psychological, social, spiritual and financial support should be undertaken at key points during the care pathway and that cancer networks should ensure a unified approach to the assessment and recording of patients' needs. The national health service has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the NICE recommendations and cancer networks now have this unified approach in place. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities. The End of Life Care Strategy, which covers care for all adult patients and which is due to be published this summer, will also address this issue.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on co-ordination of the provision of choice and dignity in end of life care between strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and hospices in the last twelve months. [194378]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not issued guidance on the co-ordination of the provision of choice and dignity in end of life care between strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and hospices in the last 12 months. However, the 2008-09 NHS Operating

Framework, which clearly sets out a relatively small number of main priorities for the NHS for the coming year, states that a key element of the forthcoming national End of Life Care Strategy for adults will be to improve people's access to high-quality services, close to their home. Central to the delivery of this change will be the development of rapid-response services and co-ordination centres. The strategy, which is due to be published this summer, will, among other issues, also address choice and dignity in end of life care.

Suicide: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what proportion of suicides in Essex the victim was previously known to be at risk by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* social services in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [193501]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not held centrally about people identified as at risk of suicide by the national health service or social services who later take their own life.

The following table shows number of patients in the former Essex strategic health authority (SHA) who took their own life who were on enhanced care programme approach (CPA). The CPA is used to assess the care needs of, and provide a package of care for, people with severe mental illness. People on enhanced CPA are more likely to have multiple needs, require more frequent and intensive interventions and have higher levels of risk. However, not everyone on enhanced CPA will necessarily be identified as at risk of suicide.

Suicides under enhanced CPA[1], Essex SHA

	Number of people under enhanced CPA who committed suicide	*Percentage of total number of suicides*
2001	11	31
2002	9	24
2003	17	35
2004	16	37
2005	18	43

[1] For 2001, the data refer to patients under standard and enhanced CPA. For 2002 to 2005, the data refer only to people under enhanced CPA.

Source:

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness

Tranquillisers: Pregnant Women

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are provided to pregnant women to assist withdrawal from *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* involuntary or prescribed tranquilliser addiction. [191167]

Dawn Primarolo: The maternity services standard of the 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services' states that women who have substance misuse problems are at greater risk of problem pregnancies and their care should be provided by an integrated multidisciplinary and multi-agency team.

All national health service maternity care providers and mental health trusts should have in place joint working arrangements for maternity and mental health services, including arrangements for direct access by midwives, general practitioners and obstetricians to a perinatal psychiatrist.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Fees and Charges

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes HM Courts Service has made to the fees applying to court lists and registers for 2008-09. [193217]

Mr. Straw: No changes have been made to the fees for photocopying court lists and registers. There is a minimum fee of £5 for up to 10 sheets and 50p thereafter payable for a copy of any document provided by the court.

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what categories of information and variables are recorded on the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal database. [193329]

Mr. Straw: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's database was designed to hold all information relevant to the administration of an appeal case, together with data essential for monitoring and reporting on the tribunal's performance. Due to the sheer volume of database categories, variables and fields, to provide a full list or comprehensive summary of these elements would be unwieldy, and to place such information in the public domain would breach agreements between the tribunal and its contracted software developers.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193534]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to list the costs spent on overnight accommodation by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who escaped from open prisons in each month since January 2007, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* offence for which convicted; and if he will make a statement. [193511]

Mr. Hanson: Records show that the level of absconds is the lowest for 10 years. Statistics show that since 1996 the rate of absconds has reduced by half.

Data showing the number of prisoners who have absconded from open or semi-open prisons between January 2007 and February 2008 broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* offence for which they are convicted is shown in the following tables.

Currently abscond levels are the lowest since centralised recording of figures began in 1995.

*Offence**	*Askham Grange*	*Ford*	*Grendon*	*Hatfield*	*Hewell Grange*	*Hollesley Bay*	*Kirkham*	*Leyhill*	*Lindholme*
Affray	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Burglary	1	13	11	14	6	4	30	16	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assault	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Assisting illegal immigrants	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Attempt to commit theft	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Attempt to pervert the course of justice	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Murder	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Robbery	4	5	4	3	4	7	12	9	1
Breach	—	4	—	—	1	1	2	2	
Conspiracy to commit theft	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drugs	2	7	2	8	1	—	10	8	—
Criminal damage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Customs evasion (not drugs related)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Driving	—	4	—	1	3	4	3	3	—
Deception	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Fail to surrender	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
False imprisonment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False instruments	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Fraud	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Handling stolen goods	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
Holding warrant	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Illegal immigrant/detainee	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Import[illegible]port/drug	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Inflict grievous bodily harm	—	—	—	1			1	3	
Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Make off without paying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other criminal offences	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other violence offences	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of firearm with intent. Endanger life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Receiving stolen goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sec 40 convictions during original sentence	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Taking and driving away	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Theft	—	6	1	—	—	1	9	6	—
Threatening/disorderly behaviour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounding	—	2	—	—	—	1	4	3	—
Not recorded	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
Grand total	9	55	23	33	17	20	80	60	1

Offence	*North Sea Camp*	*Norwich*	*Standford Hill*	*Stoke Heath*	*Sudbury*	*Thorn Cross*	*Usk*	*Wealstun*	*Grand total*
Affray	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Burglary	19	—	18	—	17	29	1	12	191
Arson	1	—	—	—	1		1	1	4
Assault	2	—	1	—	1	5		1	15
Assisting illegal immigrants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Attempt to commit theft	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Attempt to pervert the course of justice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Attempted murder	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Murder	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	7
Robbery	4	—	7	—	17	19	3	5	104
Breach	6	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	21
Conspiracy to commit theft	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Drugs	4	—	6	—	4	10	—	8	70
Criminal damage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Customs evasion (not drugs related)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Driving	3	—	2	—	2	—	1	2	28
Deception	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Fail to surrender	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
False imprisonment	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
False instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fraud	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Handling stolen goods	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Holding warrant	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Illegal immigrant/detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Import/export/drug	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Inflict grievous bodily harm	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	9
Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Make off without paying	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Other criminal offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other violence offences	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Possession of firearm with intent. Endanger life	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Rape	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Receiving stolen goods	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Sec 40 convictions during original sentence	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	6
Taking and driving away	1	—	—	—	1	5	—	2	13
Theft	3	—	6	—	2	1	—	1	36
Threatening/disorderly behaviour	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Trespass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wounding	—	1	1	—	2	7	—	1	22
Not recorded	—	—	1	1	—	3	3	1	16
Grand total	54	1	53	1	59	85	9	39	599

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory: Finance

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what he plans to spend on the operation of the Diamond facility at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in each of the next three financial years. [194449]

Ian Pearson: The Science and Technology Facilities Council, (STFC) plans to spend £26.997 million on Diamond operations in 2008/09. The planned spend for the following two financial years is to be discussed and agreed between STFC and Diamond Light Source.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches were carried out by police under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since the Act's introduction; and how many and what percentage of those searches resulted in arrest. [163715]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* Information on stop and searches and resultant arrests under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 from 2001-02 to 2004-05 (latest available) is given in the following table.

For 2005-06 data I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 78W.

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000[2] and resultant arrests[3], England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Stop and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism		
	Total searches	Resultant arrests[3]	Percentage of arrests
2001-02	10,200	189	2
2002-03	32,100	380	1
2003-04	33,800	491	1
2004-05	35,800	455	1

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants.

[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.

[3] Includes arrests under the Terrorism Act, arrests for terrorist related matters and other serious crimes.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police officers. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Terrorism

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences since 11 September 2001 have at some point claimed asylum. [168341]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to move children out of poverty since 1997. [194175]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have set an ambitious target to halve child poverty, from a 1998-99 baseline by 2010, and to eradicate it by 2020. Since 1998-99, Government have halted the rising trend and 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative low-income.

Work, for those who can, remains the best route out of poverty and the Government are committed to supporting families to find work, to stay in work and to progress so that they can build a sustainable future for themselves and their families. Since 1997 the lone parent employment rate has increased by 12.5 percentage points to 57.2 per cent. and employment levels overall are at the highest level ever recorded.

Since 1997 the Government have also radically reformed the system of financial support for families. As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system in Budget 2008, from April 2010, in real terms:

households with children will be, on average, £2,000 better off;

households with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be on average £4,500 better off as a result of measures introduced since 1997. (The full list for households with children in the poorest fifth since 1997 is: England £4,500, Wales £4,000, Scotland £4,100, NI £4,800, UK £4,500).

Budget 2008 announced measures that will make significant further progress towards the target of halving child poverty by 2010 by:

increasing the first child rate of child benefit to £20 a week from 2009;

disregarding child benefit in calculating income for housing and council tax benefit from October 2009;

increasing the child element of the child tax credit by £50 a year above indexation from April 2009 to further help low to middle income families.

Through these measures the Government are investing an additional £950 million in tackling child poverty by 2010-11, lifting up to 250,000 additional children out of poverty by 2010-11. Including the reforms announced in Budget 2007 and the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, measures announced in the last year will lift over 500,000 children out of poverty.

We are also committed to improving public services to ensure that children receive the best start in life. There are now 2,557 Sure Start children's centres in England, providing services to more than two million children and their families and over 9,500 schools (one in three of total) are now providing core extended services, including: child care, study support, parenting support, family learning, access to wide range of specialised support for pupils; and opening up facilities to the community.

We will continue to build on this. Compared to 2007-08, by 2010-11, the Government will be investing an additional £2 billion a year in public services to alleviate child poverty and break cycles of deprivation, including spending on child care, schooling in deprived areas, educational attainment, health inequalities, emotional well being, disabled children and school transport.

In March 2008 'Ending child poverty: everybody's business' was published. The report builds on the considerable evidence base and analysis of child poverty and considers: the causes and consequences of child poverty; costs associated with childhood experiences of poverty, for both individuals and society; the impact of Government action so far; and policy direction for the future.

In addition to the tax credit and benefit measures announced in this year's Budget the document announces £125 million in innovative pilots over the next three years. This represents a real investment in approaches that might make a substantial contribution to eradicating child poverty. The Government will use the results of these pilots to inform future action.

Education: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to encourage businesses to assist in the education of children. [194173]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State recognises the significant contribution that business can make to young peoples' achievements and aspirations and encourages schools and colleges to build meaningful partnerships with employers in a wide range of areas.

The National Council for Educational Excellence is considering how businesses can contribute more to achieving educational excellence and will report to the Prime Minister in the summer.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [187787]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has spent approximately £1 million on entertainment during the last 12 month period. It is not possible to separate the spend relating to alcohol from this overall figure. This spend was through its contracted service provider.

This figure also includes hospitality booked by external bodies including other Government Departments using our conference facilities. It is not possible to separate this spend from that of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Metals: Exports

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of scrap metal exports was in each of the last three years; and what the main destinations of those experts were over that period. [193805]

Mr. Thomas: The following figures taken from HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics give the value of UK exports of waste and scrap (largely of ferrous metal, copper, aluminium, precious metal, nickel and tin) to selected countries.

			£ million
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
World total	**1,631**	**2,335**	**2,691**
Belgium	**84**	**140**	**161**
France	80	118	144
Germany	116	231	238
Spain	260	287	305
Rest of European Union	150	281	334
China	223	417	452
India	219	121	154
Turkey	84	245	227
United States	108	130	95
Rest of World	308	366	580

Storage: Hazardous Substances

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to ensure the security of chemical storage facilities in areas of high population density against terrorist attack. [192520]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 1999 place a statutory responsibility on establishments holding significant amounts of specified dangerous substances to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences. In addition, the Health and Safety Executive advises local authorities on applications for development around such sites in order to limit the growth of population that could be affected by a major incident.

In addition, specific chemical storage sites receive protective security advice and training from police Counter Terrorism Security Advisers and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). In addition, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 14 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 667 a review of the protective security arrangements in place around hazardous substances. This review is being led by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism (Lord West) and is currently under way.

Wines: Sales

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Government have made of the health effects of restricting the sale of UK-produced lower alcohol wines; and if he will make a statement. [186854]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The recent change in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology for estimating alcohol consumption ("Estimating alcohol consumption from survey data: improved method of converting volumes to units, ONS, November 2007") has highlighted how gradual increases in alcohol levels of wine over a period of years have contributed to increased alcohol consumption in the United Kingdom.

The Department will launch a campaign in May 2008 to help consumers estimate their alcohol consumption in units and to understand why this matters for their own health.

The Government believe that industry can also play an important part in helping to moderate rising alcohol levels by providing a wider range of choices for consumers. We will continue to press the European Commission to allow European Union (EU) winemakers to have greater flexibility to produce low alcohol wine, which is prevented by current EU rules. We would wish to encourage this as a socially responsible industry action in support of the National Alcohol Strategy.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to answer question 178201, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 8 January 2008, on fuel poverty. [193491]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 573W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193865]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to our records, we have made one payment to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months of £91,000 (excl. VAT) for a survey on 'the experience of smaller establishments in applying for live music authorisation'.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if his Department will subsidise the entry fee to cultural institutions for children from low income households to ensure that every child experiences five hours of culture a week. [189068]

Andy Burnham: On 13 February 2008 we announced a £25 million Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of delivering a structured five hour cultural offer.

This programme, which will help inform our plans for a national roll out of the offer, builds on the Government's already considerable investment into these areas. This includes the support we give to enable free entry to National Museums, the Creative Partnerships programme which will receive over £110 million over the next three years, and the recently announced £332 million programme to support school music.

We have published a prospectus seeking applications from partnerships in local areas around the country and each partnership can apply for up to £2.5 million over three years. While we would expect the majority of money to be spent directly on new activity for young people it can also be used for skills assessments, training and CPD to those implementing delivery, or subsidising entry fees to local cultural institutions.

Playing Fields

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 7WS, on playing field statistics, which 40 applications led to a detrimental impact on sport, broken down by local authority. [194462]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 97 per cent. (1,176) of 1,216 concluded planning applications affecting playing fields in 2005-06 resulted in improved or protected sports provision. The 40 (3 per cent.) approved planning applications in 2005-06 that were considered by Sport England to be a detriment to sport are listed in the table. None of the 40 cases resulted in the complete loss of a playing field, the detrimental impact on sport included issues such as loss of space around the margins of a field, temporary loss of school playing field space during rebuilding works, or the creation of a new sporting facility which did not meet all of Sport England's design standards. Sport England maintained an objection to each of these 40 applications that was overruled by the local authority.

Site name	*Local authority*
Land West of Gardiners Lane South	Basildon
Kings Norton Boys School	Birmingham
Automotive Lighting Factory (former) and Cannock Ind Centre (x 3 planning applications)	Cannock Chase
Liskeard and Looe Rugby Club	Caradon
Neigbourhood Nursery (Beacon Junior and Infants School)	Carrick
Playing Field	Cheltenham
Durham City Football Club	Durham
Former Itec Site	Easington
Pebsham CP School	Hastings
Walpole Highway Primary School	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Clifton Nursery School	Kingston upon Hull
Dryclough C E (C) Infant School (x 2 applications)	Kirklees
Mile Oak Community Centre	Lichfield
Romans Field School	Milton Keynes
Wolverton Park Sports Ground	Milton Keynes
Ashcombe Primary School	North Somerset
Gordano School	North Somerset
Site of Nuneaton Rugby Club/AFC	Nuneaton and Bedworth
Former Old Manor Hospital	Salisbury
Gay Meadow	Shrewsbury and Atcham
Long Stratton High School	South Norfolk
Wincanton Sports Ground	South Somerset
St. Dominies School	South Staffordshire
Parkside Primary School	Stafford
Croft School	Stratford-on-Avon
Stratford Town Football Club	Stratford-on-Avon
Earl Soham Primary School	Suffolk Coastal
Land at Pipers Way	Swindon
Wilnecote Sports Centre	Tamworth
Former Willenhall Radiator Grounds	Walsall
Leighswood School	Walsall

Site name	*Local authority*
Play Area Rear of High Terrace	Wear Valley
Lowbourne Junior School	West Wiltshire
Goodyear Site	Wolverhampton
Wilden All Saints First School	Wyre Forest
St. Johns C of E First School	Wyre Forest
Stourport High School	Wyre Forest

TRANSPORT

A264: Accidents

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents occurred on the A264 between Stone Cross and Blackham in each of the last 10 years. [194537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents which occurred on the A264 between Stone Cross and Blackham in 1997 to 2007 are given in the table:

			Number of accidents	
Year of accident	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
1997	0	1	7	8
1998	0	3	4	7
1999	0	2	6	8
2000	0	1	5	6
2001	0	0	3	3
2002	0	1	7	8
2003	0	1	4	5
2004	0	2	0	2
2005	0	1	0	1
2006	0	0	2	2

A4: Heathrow Airport

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where she plans the A4 to run in relation to Heathrow airport in proposals in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation; and what assessment she has made of the security implications of the location of the road. [193692]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is expected that the routing of the A4 would be largely unaffected by the proposals in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document. It is, however, expected that sections of the road would pass in tunnels underneath aeroplane taxiways between the existing airport campus and the new runway. If proposals are taken forward, further work would need to be carried out as part of a comprehensive transport assessment prior to the airport operator submitting any planning application: this would include any security implications of the location of the A4. This would be done in consultation with the Highways Agency, TfL—Transport for London—and local authorities.

Aviation: Security

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assurances she has obtained from foreign Governments whose airlines utilise armed air marshals on the co-operation by such marshals with UK police officers on aircraft on British soil. [193492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not sought assurances from foreign Governments regarding cooperation by foreign air marshals with UK police officers. Policing at UK airports is a matter for the respective police forces and the Home Office.

Biofuels: Imports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what percentage of biodiesel used in the UK was imported from the US in 2006-07; [184169]

(2) what steps are taken to determine whether biodiesel imported from the US has been produced sustainably; and what certification requirements apply to such imports. [184170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not presently hold precise data on the provenance of the biofuels used in the UK. We will have more accurate data once the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) comes into effect in April. Under the RTFO, transport fuel suppliers who wish to earn Renewable Transport Fuel certificates in respect of their biofuels will have to report to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) on matters such as the country of origin and wider sustainability of those fuels. Further detail on the reporting requirements is available via the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa

We are aware that during 2006 and 2007 a significant proportion of the biodiesel sold in the UK was imported from the US. There are currently no sustainability or certification requirements on these or other imports of biofuel into the European Union, and the UK Government do not have the power unilaterally to impose any such restrictions. We have expressed our concerns on this issue to the European Commission at the highest level and are supporting their efforts to press for legislative changes in the US. Once the RTFO is in force, transport fuel suppliers importing biodiesel from the US will be subject to the same sustainability reporting requirements as outlined above.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on shredding in her Department and its agencies. [191770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The policy on shredding in the Department for Transport is based on guidance from the Cabinet Office's Manual of Protective Security. This requires material to be shredded using equipment of an approved standard, commensurate with the material's level of protective marking.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Publications

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff were involved in the publishing of DVL Today in each year since it was first published. [191704]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since November 2003 (edition 25) the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has not had any members of staff working full-time on the external publication DVL Today. Instead, the work is distributed between several members of staff. The estimated number of working hours per edition is shown as follows.

	Estimated number of working hours
Editor	74
Three print unit staff	76
Two design staff	26
Total	[1]176

[1] Hours altogether.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual cost of the publication DVL Today was in each year since it was first published. [191721]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DVL Today is published twice a year in April and October; the first edition was produced in 1991. Since November 2003 the publication has been produced in-house. The annual in-house cost of publishing both editions for each calendar year since 2003 is around £6,500. Prior to 2003 the magazine was produced by external publishing companies, unfortunately this pre-dates our current accounting system and to access the data from our previous accounts system would incur disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated readership is of DVL Today. [191722]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We issue approximately 19,000 copies of each issue of DVL Today to our customers (we have 22,000 of each edition printed). The publication is also available on Driver and Vehicles Licensing Agency's corporate website for reading/download by customers. DVL Today is published twice a year.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many copies of DVL Today were printed in each year since it was first published; and how many copies were posted to readers in each year. [191723]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since November 2003 (edition 25) we have had 22,000 copies of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's external publications DVL Today printed. Of these, approximately 19,000 of each edition are posted to readers. DVL Today is published twice a year.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of posting DVL Today to readers was in each year since it was first published. [191724]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) produce approximately 44,000 copies of DVL Today per annum; approximately 36,000 of these are distributed outside DVLA central to Automated First Registration and Licensing dealers, our Local Office Network and other motoring organisations. Distribution costs (mainly postage) for DVL Today for the calendar year 2007 were £5,114.

Emergency Services: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W, on emergency services: accidents, how many accidents occurred involving blue light vehicles from the *(a)* police force, *(b)* fire service and *(c)* ambulance service in each of the last five years; and how many (i) deaths and (ii) serious injuries resulted from accidents in each such category, broken down by region. [190861]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving vehicles from *(a)* the police force, *(b)* the fire service and *(c)* the ambulance service and the number of resulting fatalities and seriously injured casualties in each region for each of the last five years are shown in the tables:

(a) Police

	Number of accidents				
Government Office Regions	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	133	129	123	119	118
North West	352	291	333	362	351
Yorkshire and the Humber	351	311	320	274	259
East Midlands	171	165	157	122	109
West Midlands	219	232	238	198	218
East of England	195	189	198	162	160
South East	299	290	245	243	258
London	110	74	70	19	32
South West	171	149	157	165	161
Wales	88	88	95	82	91
Scotland	95	107	90	71	70
Great Britain	2,184	2,025	2,026	1,817	1,827

(b) Fire service

	Number of accidents				
Government Office Regions	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	9	4	11	3	4
North West	20	25	17	17	9

(b) Fire service

Government Office Regions	*Number of accidents* *2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Yorkshire and the Humber	20	11	7	7	6
East Midlands	4	7	9	4	5
West Midlands	7	15	14	3	12
East of England	10	6	10	13	9
South East	8	15	18	15	11
London	12	16	11	7	17
South West	9	10	9	10	7
Wales	3	6	5	3	4
Scotland	8	10	7	9	7
Great Britain	110	125	118	91	91

(c) Ambulance service

Government Office Regions	*Number of accidents* *2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	8	7	11	10	18
North West	46	44	35	36	24
Yorkshire and the Humber	40	37	30	33	25
East Midlands	20	25	26	24	23
West Midlands	28	36	31	20	23
East of England	34	26	22	16	21
South East	37	49	30	45	44
London	42	47	47	34	31
South West	19	38	31	26	27
Wales	20	29	14	20	19
Scotland	14	15	15	20	19
Great Britain	308	353	292	284	274

(a) Police

	Number of casualties									
	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Government Office Regions	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*
North East	2	10	1	16	3	20	0	19	2	13
North West	7	57	9	26	3	58	7	47	11	55
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	54	0	29	3	47	2	46	6	33
East Midlands	8	26	3	23	6	23	0	13	1	26
West Midlands	1	28	3	29	3	35	2	23	3	25
East of England	5	33	4	28	3	19	3	20	1	23
South East	2	53	4	41	5	35	7	31	4	30
London	1	21	0	4	1	15	0	0	0	6*
South West	3	26	1	15	2	25	2	13	1	18
Wales	4	10	1	9	1	4	1	7	0	8
Scotland	0	15	1	25	1	12	2	3	1	7
Great Britain	34	333	27	245	31	293	26	222	30	244

(b) Fire service

	Number of casualties									
	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Government Office Regions	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*
North East	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
North West	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	2	0	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	3	1	7	2	2	0	1	0	0
East Midlands	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
East of England	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
South East	0	2	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	4
London	0	0	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	7
South West	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wales	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scotland	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	3	0	0
Great Britain	0	9	4	24	4	18	2	13	0	18

(c) Ambulance service

Government Office Regions	*Number of casualties* *2002* *Fatal*	*Serious*	*2003* *Fatal*	*Serious*	*2004* *Fatal*	*Serious*	*2005* *Fatal*	*Serious*	*2006* *Fatal*	*Serious*
North East	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
North West	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	9	0	5	0	8	0	10	0	3
East Midlands	0	4	2	3	3	4	0	2	0	5
West Midlands	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	0
East of England	1	5	1	3	1	5	2	3	1	6
South East	1	11	2	5	0	1	1	3	1	6
London	1	8	3	17	0	11	0	4	1	10
South West	2	4	2	5	0	4	0	1	1	2
Wales	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	3
Scotland	0	1	0	6	0	5	1	4	1	2
Great Britain	5	52	11	54	4	43	5	32	5	43

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has received representations from BAA plc regarding a fourth runway and seventh terminal at Heathrow Airport. [191716]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No representations have been received.

Heathrow Airport: Planning Permission

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether she plans to make permission to build a third runway or sixth terminal at Heathrow airport contingent on a limit on further expansion; [191696]

(2) whether she plans to make permission to build a third runway or sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport subject to a cap on the maximum number of flight movements at the airport. [191697]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The recent consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", which closed on 27 February, was about the Government's policy towards expansion at the airport. No decision will be made until we have analysed the many thousands of responses we have received. It would not be appropriate to speculate on the outcome of that process. In addition, the decision would in any event be subject to obtaining the necessary planning and other statutory consents.

Inland Waterways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the levels of traffic on major rivers and other inland waterways between 1997 and 2000. [191760]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is shown in the following table.

UK inland waters traffic, 1997 to 2000

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Goods lifted (million tonnes)				
Total	58.5	57.3	53.8	49.0
Of which:				
Non-seagoing	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.3
Seagoing	53.7	53.0	49.5	44.7
Goods moved (million tonne-kilometres)				
Total	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.7
Of which				
Non-seagoing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Seagoing	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5

Source:
Department for Transport Statistics Bulletin: "Waterborne Freight in the United Kingdom 2006"

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will answer Question 177350, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 9 January 2008, on the Portsmouth to Cardiff rail service. [193490]

Mr. Tom Harris: I replied to the hon. Member on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 444W.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W, on motor vehicles: excise duties, if she will provide equivalent information for each year since 1996. [191749]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of vehicles wrongly impounded is available for the last two financial years only. The information available was provided in my answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Parking Offences: Unpaid Fines

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on the revenue to local authorities of the non-payment of parking fines in respect of vehicles where their legal keepers by virtue of their registration are *(a)* non-EEA—European economic area—nationals and *(b)* nationals of other European Union member states; if she will bring forward proposals to address the effects on revenue; and if she will make a statement. [193688]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. The enforcement of decriminalised traffic contraventions is a matter for the relevant local authorities. They are not required to provide such information to the Government.

Enforcement of penalty charges issued to keepers of foreign registered vehicles is a Europe wide challenge that needs a Europe wide solution. The Government are awaiting an expected draft directive from the European Commission on cross border enforcement, which will include road traffic matters.

Provisions are also included in the Local Transport Bill currently progressing through Parliament which will enable the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to request information from foreign registration authorities on behalf of UK authorities who wish to pursue unpaid penalties incurred by motorists in foreign registered vehicles.

Passenger Ships

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the environmental impact of cruise ships operating from UK ports; and if she will make a statement. [192396]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No specific assessment of the environmental impact of cruise vessels has been undertaken. Cruise vessels are treated as any other vessel for the purposes of UK and international legislation and are required to comply with the relevant international standards.

Ports: Waste Management

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was raised by setting a mandatory charge for port waste reception facilities irrespective of use for entering a UK harbour in each year since 2003; and how much the scheme cost in each year. [192398]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Charges for use of port waste reception facilities are set by the port or terminal in question and established on a commercial basis to cover the cost of the provision of waste reception facilities. The Government do not record the costs of administering such schemes or the money collected through them.

In approving port reception facility plans the Maritime and Coastguard Agency considers the calculation of the charge to ensure it is proportionate to the cost of providing waste reception facilities.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ship operators were convicted following steps taken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as a result of non-compliance with the Port Waste Reception Facilities Regulations 2003 in each of the last five years, broken down by the port, harbour or terminal authority where the non-compliance occurred; and if she will make a statement. [192399]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No ship operators have been convicted by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in the last five years under the Port Waste Reception Facilities Regulations 2003.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, on roads: accidents, if she will provide this information for every parliamentary constituency. [191750]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the numbers of reported personal injury road accidents, the number involving drivers under the age of 21, and the resulting fatalities in each parliamentary constituency in 1997 to 2006 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 737W, on roads: accidents, if she will provide the equivalent figure for each parliamentary constituency. [191753]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the numbers of *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries resulting from personal injury road accidents in each parliamentary constituency by age of casualty have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in *(a)* Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in 2007. [194718]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. Statistics on reported personal injury road accidents in 2007 are due to be published in June 2008.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new train carriages *(a)* entered and *(b)* were removed from service in each year since 2004; and how many are expected to (i) enter and (ii) be removed from service in (A) 2008, (B) 2009, (C) 2010 and (D) 2011. [190608]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The number of vehicles which have entered service since 2004 are as follows:

	Number
2004	1,360
2005	710
2006	210
2007	15

We do not hold the numbers which were removed from service as this number constantly changes depending on the commercial deals made by the Train Operating Companies (TOCs). However, I would point out that there is very little useable stock available and the Department's High Level Output Specification (HLOS) is about growing capacity of the network. The numbers which are expected to enter service will depend on the vehicle delivery profile which is agreed with the manufacturer at contract signature.

Transport: Pollution Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if she will place a copy of these plans in the Library. [191762]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's Travel Plan was published on its website on 28 November 2006. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the timetable for the implementation of *(a)* community call to action and *(b)* councillor call to action is; [193786]

(2) what steps she is taking to extend the community call to action to all local authority services. [193788]

Mr. Dhanda: "Strong and prosperous communities—The Local Government White Paper Implementation Plan: One Year On", published in November 2007, states that Councillor Call for Action will be implemented during 2008.

On 27 December 2007 Communities and Local Government published the "Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation", which seeks views on the implementation of the Councillor Call for Action. Paragraph 19 of the consultation document proposes a duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions where the subject of the petition relates to the functions of the local authority, or other public services with shared delivery responsibilities with the local authority. Paragraph 43 of the document states that the Government believe their proposed duty on local authorities to respond to qualifying petitions would amount to a community call for action, but seek views on whether other steps should be taken. The consultation will close on 20 March.

Audits

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements her Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176628]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no centrally held information on requirements that are placed on contractors in this regard. Individual contracts will impose particular requirements on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment but terms and conditions vary between contracts, and there is no standard condition which runs across all contracts.

Bellwin Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of applications made to her Department and its predecessors by local authorities under the Bellwin scheme was in each year since 1997. [193867]

John Healey: Since 1997, the Bellwin scheme has paid out the following amounts (to the nearest £1,000):

	Amount (£)
1997-98	170,000
1998-99	440,000
1999-2000	350,000
2000-01	4,100,000
2001-02	25,800,000
2002-03	184,000
2003-04	0
2004-05	1,900,000
2005-06	1,940,000
2006-07	55,000
2007-08	[1]16,026,000

[1] To date.

The Department does not hold comprehensive historical records of all applications, not all of which will have resulted in the activation of the scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* has been paid and *(b)* is outstanding for payment to local authorities in respect of claims under the Bellwin scheme in 2007. [193868]

John Healey: To date, £16,025,831 has been paid to local authorities under the Bellwin scheme in 2007-08. Around £6 million of claims are being assessed.

Community Relations: Democracy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of a White Paper on democracy and community engagement; and if she will make a statement. [194296]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced, on 5 March, proposals to prepare a White Paper on plans to unlock talent in local communities and give people a real say on improving local services and promoting active citizenship. We will be developing a range of proposals over the coming months, and plan to publish the White Paper in the summer. We want a wide range of people to contribute to the thinking that goes into the White Paper, including practitioners and community activists, local government, trade unions and people in the public services.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what constraints there are on local authorities on how they use the revenue from council tax levied on second homes. [193241]

John Healey: There are no constraints on how a local authority uses council tax revenue other than the need to satisfy itself that it is operating within the powers conferred on it by Parliament.

Councillors: Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to introduce a national pay system for local government councillors. [193833]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State will be publishing the Government's response to the Councillors Commission report, (which included a recommendation on a National Framework of Allowances for councillors), later in the spring, following consultation with other Government Departments and key partners.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to reduce her Department's carbon dioxide emissions in the next financial year. [191019]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in her Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193526]

Mr. Dhanda: The breakdown of information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following table sets out the overall UK and overseas accommodation expenditure incurred by Communities and Local Government (for civil servants and Ministers) in the last 12 months.

1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008	£
UK accommodation costs	748,937
Overseas accommodation costs	89,920

All travel by civil servants and Ministers is conducted in accordance with requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192052]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1644W. Since then the Department has purchased additional new plants at a cost of £845.00, during the period 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties her Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192991]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government owns 39 residential houses at the Fire Service College, one of our executive agencies. Five are currently vacant. Of these, one has been vacant for less than three months, three houses have been vacant for between six and 12 months and one for longer than 12 months. Two of the vacant houses will be occupied by mid-April 2008.

Departmental Public Participation: Opinion Research

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to opinion research companies or consultants in the last 24 months, other than to Ipsos MORI; at what cost; and for what purposes. [191645]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property: Rates and Rating

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs of *(a)* administration of and *(b)* collection of revenue from empty property rates. [193761]

John Healey: The impact assessment accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008 No. 386, which was laid before Parliament on the 26 February 2008 gives details and assessment of the net additional costs arising from the reform to empty property rates. It is anticipated that local government will face a one-off additional cost during 2007-08 totalling £1.66 million and the Government are in the process of preparing a funding package to ensure that cost is funded.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents on or near water were attended by the Fire Service in each year since 1994, broken down by *(a)* brigade and *(b)* region. [193026]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Consultants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hendon of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1325-6W, on fire services: consultants, what the recent re-categorisation of costs referred to was. [192413]

Mr. Dhanda: The re-categorisation of costs referred to was triggered by HM Treasury in November 2006. As well as setting in motion a detailed review of existing consultancy spend to ensure that it was correctly classified against programme and administration budgets, Departments were instructed to use the 2001 Office of Government Commerce (OGC) definition of consultancy and professional services. The OGC definition states that consultancy and professional services should not include staff substitution or interim management nor steady state contractor or service provision. The common definitions for consultancy and professional services work were implemented to move towards consistent treatment and monitoring of such expenditure across all Government Departments.

Grassland: Fires

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grassland and heathland fires there were in each year since 1986, broken down by *(a)* fire authority and *(b)* region. [R] [193024]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table provides figures for 1995 to 2006.

Grassland and heathland fires by fire and rescue authority and Government Office region, England, 1995 to 2006

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	133,495	77,037	47,881	28,494	45,201	38,579	48,753	47,940	110,460	41,071	50,789	65,608
North West	29,635	18,028	8,054	3,963	6,221	5,815	7,293	6,833	17,959	6,561	7,406	10,505
Cheshire	3,272	2,157	990	521	772	763	1,310	1,138	2,346	920	990	1,656
Cumbria	655	842	267	112	236	294	373	280	1,003	487	457	500
Lancashire	3,433	2,600	936	390	557	735	974	1,551	3,264	1,385	1,343	1,567
Greater Manchester	11,782	5,391	2,746	1,078	2,145	1,702	2,173	1,948	6,401	1,550	1,855	3,099
Merseyside	10,493	7,038	3,115	1,862	2,511	2,321	2,463	1,916	4,945	2,219	2,761	3,683
North East	8,936	6,478	4,566	2,321	4,563	4,114	4,554	4,452	8,628	3,048	3,995	6,626
Cleveland	1,665	1,258	743	424	764	862	993	1,194	1,979	755	1,169	1,701
Durham	2,082	1,416	1,358	656	1,068	833	1,028	857	1,894	710	933	1,533
Northumberland	863	555	408	163	397	466	413	393	961	313	331	481
Tyne and Wear	4,326	3,249	2,057	1,078	2,334	1,953	2,120	2,008	3,794	1,270	1,562	2,911
Yorks and Humberside	20,450	8,713	4,709	3,308	5,690	4,173	5,982	5,818	12,886	3,885	5,672	7,098
Humberside	2,344	1,912	1,002	741	947	111	836	1,062	2,277	736	928	1,135
North Yorkshire	673	359	309	188	268	240	314	344	657	276	359	470
South Yorkshire	7,837	3,433	1,794	1,518	2,317	1,755	2,307	2,508	5,006	1,396	2,111	2,551
West Yorkshire	9,596	3,009	1,604	861	2,158	1,401	2,525	1,904	4,946	1,477	2,274	2,942
West Midlands	19,566	8,552	6,375	3,583	5,550	6,393	6,994	7,849	15,836	5,970	7,029	10,802
Hereford and Worcester	1,416	812	582	293	421	455	478	601	1,212	510	521	603
Shropshire	1,162	433	512	335	472	470	652	682	1,049	525	483	837
Staffordshire	4,356	2,078	1,328	827	992	1,109	1,420	1,362	2,918	1,181	1,412	1,974
Warwickshire	1,727	800	460	274	442	397	349	466	814	307	371	444
West Midlands	10,905	4,429	3,493	1,854	3,223	3,962	4,095	4,738	9,843	3,447	4,242	6,744
East Midlands	12,316	6,244	3,606	2,917	4,522	3,441	4,479	5,218	11,035	4,114	5,063	5,982
Derbyshire	2,544	1,342	666	436	732	640	705	758	1,604	565	1,035	1,002
Leicestershire	2,355	1,209	624	573	774	712	778	860	2,055	624	701	769
Lincolnshire	1,143	734	407	327	513	334	443	433	994	420	458	617
Northamptonshire	1,414	613	390	283	302	263	476	507	1,225	439	510	681
Nottinghamshire	4,860	2,346	1,519	1,298	2,201	1,492	2,077	2,660	5,157	2,066	2,359	2,913
East	8,571	6,835	4,908	3,197	3,910	3,281	3,851	4,285	10,269	3,697	4,825	6,222
Bedfordshire	942	576	402	231	410	248	318	371	1,141	296	458	452
Cambridgeshire	623	796	502	393	436	423	372	549	990	373	528	659
Essex	3,790	3,026	2,036	1,429	1,659	1,384	1,687	1,586	3,834	1,584	2,216	2,517
Hertfordshire	1,135	563	863	508	695	552	617	647	2,153	578	700	838
Norfolk	1,111	966	527	333	400	365	463	629	1,137	449	443	1,015

Grassland and heathland fires by fire and rescue authority and Government Office region, England, 1995 to 2006

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Suffolk	970	908	578	303	310	309	394	503	1,014	417	480	741
South West	8,831	4,754	3,191	1,959	2,770	2,897	3,949	3,321	6,777	3,373	4,000	4,565
Avon	2,250	775	357	336	591	613	970	988	2,171	868	1,474	1,484
Cornwall	1,212	822	505	205	334	352	389	346	624	388	421	610
Devon	1,641	1,063	814	425	533	554	676	570	1,006	656	546	840
Dorset	2,020	947	824	553	765	832	1,223	732	1,174	776	870	725
Gloucestershire	632	419	221	175	193	211	199	223	700	229	322	360
Somerset	539	340	254	139	174	156	217	221	506	238	167	285
Wiltshire	530	375	214	125	177	174	267	231	589	208	197	253
Isles of Scilly	7	13	2	1	3	5	8	10	7	10	3	8
South East	13,669	7,923	6,251	3,467	5,705	4,098	6,250	5,650	13,565	5,573	5,941	7,035
Berkshire	2,087	1,027	774	432	538	461	631	657	1,550	614	698	824
Buckinghamshire	1,179	496	469	195	388	237	279	303	819	269	262	335
East Sussex	689	482	357	190	314	335	438	255	818	245	223	389
Hampshire	4,048	1,914	1,591	923	1,536	1,224	2,179	1,792	4,059	1,792	1,646	2,255
Isle of Wight	153	131	95	55	91	65	125	83	140	54	59	83
Kent	2,373	1,758	1,298	899	1,401	735	1,094	1,096	2,861	1,029	1,455	1,431
Oxfordshire	565	507	378	198	287	233	303	326	710	334	299	330
Surrey	1,821	1,056	851	351	735	465	751	710	1,755	820	899	942
West Sussex	754	552	438	224	415	343	450	428	853	416	400	446
London	11,521	9,510	6,221	3,779	6,270	4,367	5,401	4,514	13,505	4,850	6,858	6,773

Note:
Data for 2006 are provisional.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received about including commemoration of Raoul Wallenberg in Holocaust Memorial Day; and if she will make a statement. [194374]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have received no representations to include commemoration of Raoul Wallenberg in Holocaust Memorial Day.

Liverpool City Council: Audit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking following the recent Audit Commission corporate assessment report into Liverpool City Council. [193954]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is working closely with colleagues and officials in the Local Government Association, IDeA—Improvement and Development Agency for local government—Audit Commission, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, Government Office for the North West (GONW), and the city council itself, to ensure that a package of support for Liverpool is available.

To this end, an improvement board, with external membership including GONW, IDeA, and the Audit Commission, has been set up by the city council to provide continued support and challenge. Peer support from other local government authorities is also being developed.

Local Authorities: Collective Worship

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to local authorities on the saying of prayers at council meetings. [194230]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has no plans to issue guidance to local authorities on prayers at council meetings.

Local Authorities: Petitions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps local authorities will be required to take in response to a petition with a specified number of signatures under her Department's proposals. [193787]

Mr. Dhanda: On 27 December 2007 Communities and Local Government published the "Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation", which seeks views on a proposed duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions, and the number of signatures required to trigger a response. The consultation will close on 20 March.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers Oftenant will have to *(a)* inspect local authorities and *(b)* set and monitor performance indicators for local authorities. [194409]

Mr. Iain Wright: As announced on 15 October 2007, we have appointed an independently chaired advisory panel to give further advice on the technical work needed to bring local authority landlords within the regulator's scope.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, on plastic bags, whether the two orders were for 300,000 bags in total or for 300,000 bags each for order. [193790]

Mr. Dhanda: 300,000 bags were ordered in total.

Public Bodies: Internet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost is of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* maintaining the data interchange hub in each of the next three years. [193814]

Mr. Dhanda: The data interchange hub project is being delivered in a phased manner, with the first production release due to go into service in April 2008. The phases beyond this have not been scoped in detail, and as a result estimated costs, if agreed, are not yet available. The current estimated cost up to 1 April 2008 is just under £690,000, including the costs of system development and testing, programme management, and communications with stakeholders. The annual maintenance costs are under negotiation, and the Department is efficiently and effectively re-using existing departmental systems and infrastructure to its benefit as regards both the development and maintenance costs of the system.

Standards Board for England: Complaints

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of the Standards Board for England processing and assessing a complaint in the most recent year for which figures are available. [191661]

John Healey: The average cost per case incurred by the Standards Board in undertaking the initial assessment to decide whether or not to refer a matter for investigation was £393 in 2006-07.

The average cost per completed investigation, including the cost of that initial assessment, was £12,772 in 2006-07.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Drinking Water

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has made to other Government Departments on ceasing the use of bottled water and providing tap water instead; if he will publish the responses received; and if he will make a statement. [187972]

Mr. Woolas: The use of bottled water for meetings and other official business is to be phased out across the whole Government estate.

On 6 March, the Cabinet Secretary wrote to the head of every Government Department suggesting they should replace bought-in bottled water with tap water for all meetings in future.

A number of Departments including DEFRA have already stopped using bottled water for official meetings but the proposal is to extend the 'tap water only policy' throughout Government Departments.

The new policy is expected to come into effect by the summer.

Enviros Consulting

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments have been made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* WRAP—the Waste and Resources Action Programme—to Enviros Consulting in the last 36 months; and for what purpose in each case. [192182]

Joan Ruddock: The total value of payments made by DEFRA to Enviros Consulting since 1 April 2005 is £6,426,420.53. However, due to the number of payments made, further breakdown of each project's purpose could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows each of the projects Enviros has undertaken for the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) over the last three years.

Project/programme	*Payment (£)*
Communications via Local Partners (BCLF) total	73,309.59
Construction (General) total	772.89
Evaluation total	56,900.00
Executive total	2,544.25
Local Authority Support total	27,335.50
Local Authority Training total	278,742.52
Local Communications Fund (BCLF) total	105,233.02
Manufacturing Support (Wood) total	25,378.90
Organics (Added Value) total	27,148.82
Organics (Building Infrastructure) total	7,461.95
Organics (Promoting Compost Use) total	38,048.08
Organics total	172,582.90
Plasterboard total	122,805.44
Policy total	21,579.93
Procurement total	106,515.68
Recycle at work total	15,112.25
Regional Development Agency Support total	28,899.96
Regional Economic Development total	152,305.20
ROTATE total	69,460.49
Small Medium Enterprises total	133,290.39
Manufacturing Support (Wood) total	31,663.90
Total	1,497,091.66

Fisheries: EC Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to consult on the European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme in March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [191740]

Jonathan Shaw: The consultation on the European Fisheries Fund UK Operational Programme was launched on 6 March. Copies of the draft Operational Programme are on the DEFRA website.

Fisheries: Inspections

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many joint inspections carried out with HM Revenue and Customs in relation to the enforcement of fishery protection there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [193145]

(2) how many infringements were recorded as a result of fisheries inspections in each year since 1997; how many infringements *(a)* were minor and required no follow-up action and *(b)* required follow-up action; and if he will make a statement; [193147]

(3) how many inspection reports in relation to fisheries were completed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [193205]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the performance of inspections carried out in relation to the enforcement of fishery protection. [193146]

Jonathan Shaw: The measurement of the performance of inspections carried out in relation to the enforcement of fishery protection is a complex issue.

Comparisons of the number of inspections carried out per year, or the number of inspections per patrol vessel per day are simple performance indicators which give a very broad overview but give no indication of the numerous factors which may have affected that performance and no meaningful measurement of effectiveness.

In the last three years the Marine and Fisheries Agency has moved to a more targeted risk-based system of inspection, taking account of fisheries under pressure, quota restrictions, previous offending, and other such factors.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency are currently in the process of developing methods to strengthen the gathering and use of intelligence and more accurately assess the effectiveness of inspection activity.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many inspectors monitoring landings in the fishing industry there were in each year since 1997; in which landing places they were operational; and if he will make a statement. [193201]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the numbers of fisheries inspectors is provided in the Annual Reports on Monitoring the Application of the Common Fisheries Policy submitted by the United Kingdom pursuant to Article 35 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93. Copies of these reports will be placed in the House Library. Copies of the report for 1997 are not available and the 2007 report has not been completed yet.

The locations of fisheries inspectors have been adjusted slightly over the period since 1997 in order to ensure that the inspectors are located most effectively, as the activity at some landing ports has declined and others have increased. Inspectors are located in such a way that all landing places within England and Wales can be monitored.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of changes to the budget of the Marine and Fisheries Agency for 2008-09 on the number of landings inspectors; and if he will make a statement. [193203]

Jonathan Shaw: The budget agreed with the Marine and Fisheries Agency for 2008-09 should have no implications on the number of landings inspectors employed by the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fisheries inspectors have access to VMS data and the MCSS database; which other staff have such access; and if he will make a statement. [193204]

Jonathan Shaw: All Marine and Fisheries Agency inspectors and operational focused administration staff have access to VMS—vessel monitoring system—data and the MCSS database as appropriate and in accordance with operational requirements.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of his Department's flood protection budget will be spent on administration in 2007-08. [185615]

Mr. Woolas: The definition of administration is subjective and open to interpretation.

The estimate of direct administrative spend on flood risk management in DEFRA is some £2 million. This covers direct pay, expenses and training for DEFRA Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management staff and consultancy.

Environment Agency flood risk management activities carry a share of administrative costs in relation to the overall £1 billion budget. Using the definition agreed with the National Audit Office for its report on building and maintaining river and coastal flood defences in England, the Environment Agency estimates its costs in support of flood risk management activities in 2007-08 to be:

Activity	£ *million*
Policy and Process Development	7.4
Corporate Information Systems Development and Support	7.8
Regional: Management, Finance, Legal, Estates, Human Resources, Facilities and Business Services, Accommodation, Strategy and Corporate Affairs and Customer Services	35.4
National: Environmental Assessment Service, Payments and Payroll, Science, Library and Information, Audit, Recruitment, Procurement, Transport, Financial/HR System and Support Centre and Customer Contact Centre	7.7
Central Directorates: Chief Executive's Office including Board, Corporate Affairs, Operations, Finance, Property Team, HR and Legal	6.7
Total	65.0

The Environment Agency continues to drive its efficiency programme to develop better ways of working to reduce costs and deliver more for the environment. Environment Agency efficiency targets over the spending review period are £25 million per annum, of which some £15 million will be flood risk management.

Floods: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to allocate funding in accordance with the Pitt Recommendations following the summer floods 2007. [192082]

Mr. Woolas: It has not yet been determined how the money to fund work arising from the Pitt review will be allocated. A decision is not expected until after the final report has been produced and the recommendations within it considered and prioritised. In the meantime we are pursuing the urgent recommendations from the interim report in December.

Warm Front scheme: Disadvantaged

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the likely effect of the reduction of the annual funding for the Warm Front grant on the delivery of services to settlements of fewer than 10,000 people classified as *(a)* hard to reach and *(b)* hard to treat, with particular reference to the (i) waiting times for installation and (ii) the average amount customers will have to pay as a top-up. [191424]

Mr. Woolas: No direct assessment has taken place, and DEFRA has no plans to do so in future.

However, Warm Front will continue to target properties that are difficult to reach and treat to enable them to benefit from the scheme. This includes those in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people.

As confirmed in the Government's 5th Annual Report on the UK's Fuel Poverty Strategy published in December 2007, funding for the Warm Front scheme for 2008-11 period will be just over £800 million.

Litter

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the regulations over the timing of litter picking set out in the Environment Protection Act 1990; and if he will make a statement. [192141]

Joan Ruddock: Response times for street cleansing are set out in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (available from the DEFRA website) which was revised in 2006.

Sea Fishing: White Fish

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a comparative assessment of the potential value of the recreational sea fishery for bass and the value of commercial landings of bass. [189945]

Jonathan Shaw: No. The potential value of recreational fishing for bass and the value of commercial landings of bass measure different things and therefore are not directly comparable. The potential value of recreational fishing for bass would include expenditure by anglers on items such as travel and accommodation, whereas the value of commercial landings of bass covers only the value of fish landed and does not take account of the economic contribution of related activity such as processing. However, in developing any management measures for stocks of interest to anglers, I would want to assess where possible the potential value of the measure to both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen.

I am currently consulting on a draft recreational sea angling strategy which considers a package of measures for the development of recreational sea fishing. The consultation closes on 31 March.

Whales: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 280W, on whales: nature conservation, when he will hold the meeting of like-minded anti-whaling countries; whether there will be any Ministers present; and if he will make a statement; [193206]

(2) whether he has written to any other countries to encourage them to join the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [193210]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) hosted a meeting of like-minded anti-whaling countries immediately prior to the inter-sessional meeting of the IWC on 5 March 2008 in Heathrow, London. There were no Ministers present. However, I do plan to attend the annual IWC meeting in Chile in June this year.

I have not yet written to any countries on the issue of membership. However, as stated in previous responses to questions from the hon. Member, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has recently written to 18 countries, encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his objective is for the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission to be held on 6 to 8 March 2008; and if he will make a statement; [193207]

(2) which countries are attending the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission to be held on 6 to 8 March 2008; [193208]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission, of 6 to 8 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [193209]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK's policy on whaling did not change either in the build up to, or during the course of, the inter-sessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The UK continues to support the IWC Moratorium on commercial whaling and opposes all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes, to meet a defined and substantiated need.

The agenda from the meeting, the list of its attendees and the statements it generated are all currently available on the IWC website, with a full report from the chair to follow in due course.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to his written statement of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-37WS, on the departmental expenditure limit 2007-08, what the reasons are for the drawdown on the reserve for matched funding in the spring supplementary estimate exceeding that forecast in the winter supplementary estimate by £74,729,000. [194572]

Phil Hope: The drawdown was to provide agreed match funding to 'v'; v is a charity which helps introduce young people to volunteering.

The amount of £4,729,000 was in addition to the amount drawndown in the winter supplementary estimate and not in excess of it.

Voluntary Organisations: Contracts

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what tendering process was undertaken for the contract to administer the Grassroots Grants programme. [194574]

Phil Hope: The Community Development Foundation (CDF) was appointed as the lead national partner administering the Grassroots Grants programme under the terms of a framework agreement between CDF and Cabinet Office.

A fair and open competitive procurement exercise in 2005, compliant with EU rules and UK Government policy and procedures, identified CDF as one of four partners to the framework agreement. These organisations can then be selected through a call-off arrangement to administer strategic and other grant programmes. The tender panel concluded that CDF should be first choice for projects that have a community interest.

In 2007 the Office of the Third Sector issued a formal Request to Participate to CDF under the framework agreement, and CDF submitted a detailed proposal that fully demonstrated their suitability as lead national partner for Grassroots Grants.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* helicopter crew type in the Royal Air Force in the latest period for which figures are available. [193091]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the latest average tour intervals between deployments for the crews of the aircraft and helicopter types specified. It should be noted that there may be variances for individual crew members.

	Weeks
	Average crew tour interval
Aircraft type	
Tornado GR4	52
Harrier	40
Tristar	21
VC10	12
C130	10
Nimrod R1	10
Nimrod MR2	35
BAe 125	10
Helicopter type	
Chinook	32
Puma	32
Merlin	32

Tour lengths for crew on different aircraft/helicopter types vary from three to 12 weeks.

Armed Forces: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have *(a)* not received their salaries in full and *(b)* not received any salary payment in each of the last 12 months; what the total sums (i) underpaid and (ii) not paid were; and how much is outstanding. [175794]

Derek Twigg: The number of underpayments resulting from joint personnel administration system errors in the last 12 months is as follows:

	Underpayments
February 2007	0
March 2007	54
April 2007	252
May 2007	[1]1,181
June 2007	90

	Underpayments
July 2007	416
August 2007	[2]46,305
September 2007	[3]722
October 2007	50
November 2007	311
December 2007	2
January 2008	0

[1] The majority of the underpayments were caused by University Officer Training Corps input of bounties and training nights. Other factors were mess subscriptions and disturbance allowance. There were a further 3,340 minor errors due to the migration of some Army data elements. These were mainly resolved in June, although the level of detail to distinguish between overpayment and underpayment is not held.

[2] Comprised 35,553 incorrect deductions of £3.00 in respect of contributions to the discontinued Royal Navy and Royal Marines Dependants' Fund, and 10,752 underpayments of Home to Duty Travel claims for Reservists averaging £20-£30. The former was re-credited to pay accounts in October, and the latter underpayments paid in September.

[3] A further 4,249 errors occurred when an incorrect rank on JPA generated an erroneous payment. The level of detail to distinguish between overpayment and underpayment is not held. Corrective action was taken in time for the October 2007 pay run.

The total sums underpaid, not paid and still outstanding are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, local cash payments are always available to individuals and in the vast majority of cases once a central pay error is identified, it is corrected within one or, at most, two months.

In accordance with the former Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency's performance against key target 1 (timeliness of pay), as set out in its annual corporate plan and annual report and accounts, 773 monthly salary payments, out of a total of more than three million, were paid late in financial year 2006-07, the last full financial year available. The definition of a late payment is when no money is paid into an individual's account on the designated day for that month. In all cases where late payments will result in hardship, the unit to which an individual is assigned is authorised to make cash payments in lieu.

Delays or errors in individual payments can also occur as the result of late or incorrect inputs by unit human resources staff, and failures to follow the correct processes within the payroll area. This information is held centrally.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service dates were of the *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Bulldog and *(c)* Vector vehicles. [193874]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in service dates for Mastiff (tranche 1), Bulldog and Vector (tranche 1) were, 31 December 2006, 31 August 2006, and 31 March 2007 respectively.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports *(a)* were filed in each year since 2003 and *(b)* have been filed in the last 12 months for each armoured vehicle type . [193875]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As reported by the users, the approximate number of equipment failure reports filed in each year since 2003 and filed in the last 12 months for each armoured vehicle type are:

Vehicle Type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 so far*	*Last 12 Months*
Challenger 2	2467	1737	1629	1369	1148	145	997
CVR(T)	445	252	194	372	304	70	324
FV430 Bulldog	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	165	56	210
FV430 Mk2	447	480	363	325	289	21	252
Mastiff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	163	103	261
Saxon GWR and Patrol	45	66	21	10	4	0	2
Titan	n/a	n/a	n/a	183	418	8	402
Trojan	n/a	n/a	n/a	131	677	9	643
Vector	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	56	65	120
Warrior	590	668	576	899	603	102	606

The equipment failure reporting system (EFRS) is the mandated system for equipment users to report failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor does this data record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety.

Departmental Land

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of land owned by his Department is unused; and if he will make a statement. [193010]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate in Great Britain (around 240,000 hectares) under continual review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes. Land and property may be temporarily used for many purposes and no central record is maintained.

Under Treasury guidelines, we seek to dispose of surplus property as quickly as possible. A list of sites either currently in disposal or where a decision has been taken to dispose in the future is available in the Library of the House and is regularly updated. In addition, information regarding property for sale can be found on the Defence estates website at:

www.defence-estates.mod.uk

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193528]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Ministry of Defence operates a Central Hotel Booking Service, which accounts for the great majority of all temporary overnight hotel requirements for civil servants, special advisers and Ministers. For the period from March 2007 to February 2008, the total civilian bookings through the Central Hotel Booking Service contract were £12.9 million.

These figures do not cover cases where, for instance, costs of accommodation may be included within a training cost or otherwise be paid for direct by budget holders; or where private arrangements are made and costs reclaimed locally overseas. Nor does the figure include non-departmental public bodies which do not use the contract.

In addition the cost of claims made by civilian staff through the central travel and subsistence service for local accommodation outside the Central Hotel Booking Service in 2006-07 was £2.15 million.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192103]

Derek Twigg: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK. In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented. In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

The MOD has a number of initiatives to promote gender equality where appropriate.

Afghanistan and Iraq: Defence Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what standard issue equipment each soldier deployed to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq receives; and at what cost per soldier in each case. [193407]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following list shows standard personal equipment, which is typical of that issued to British Army personnel when deploying to either Iraq or Afghanistan. The total cost of this equipment amounts to around £2,500 per individual.

The actual equipment an individual is supplied with will vary dependant on the role of the soldier, the time of year in which they deploy and whether they have previously been supplied with any of the listed items. Neither does the list include any other items an individual may need on a particular deployment which were supplied to them, for example, as part of their "initial issue" kit.

Item

Lightweight Desert Jacket
Desert Trousers
Desert Combat Smock
Socks
Desert Shorts
Desert T-shirts
Rank Slides
Desert Helmet cover
Desert Combat Gloves
Desert Hat
Desert Sandals
Combat underwear
Mk6A Helmet
General purpose belt
Hot weather shirts
Warm weather safety boots
Lightweight Desert Combat boots
Combat ear protection
Pad Knee/Elbow Desert
Thermal Sleeping Mat
Daysack
Op Travel Bag
Thermal Mug
Shelter Sheet Desert
Bag Shelter Sheet
Insect Net Protector (Mos Net) Bed
Cover Rucksack Small (Pouches)
Cover Rucksack Large
Spectacles Combat (Sunglasses)
ID Discs
Goggles Combat
Eyewear Prescriptive Lens Fitment
Washing net
Warm Weather Sleeping Bag
Compression Sack
Liner Sleeping Bag
Vest Tactical Load Carrying
Head Net Insect
30 Litre Patrol Pack
Shemagh
Rag Sweat Desert
Snap Link Rappeller
MK12 General Purpose Binocular
Silva compass
General Service watch

SA80 A2 Individual weapon (Magazine and Sling cleaning Kit)
Right Angle torch
Padlock
Enhanced Combat Body Armour
First Field Dressing
Notebook/Pencil
Lipscreen
Sunscreen
Insect Repellent
Foot Powder
Entrenching Tool Hand
Personal Medical Kit
NBC clothing
Operational Medical Record Card

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel were based in Iraq on 1 January 2008; and how many there were on 1 January in each of the previous three years. [182162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The approximate number of established posts for UK armed forces personnel in Iraq on each of those dates are as follows:

As at 1 January each year	*Number approximate*
2008	4,700
2007	7,100
2006	8,000
2005	8,000

The actual number of UK military personnel in theatre at any one time varies significantly for a range of reasons, including roulements, rest and recuperation periods and temporary troop deployments.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army have been killed in operations in Iraq since 2003, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* regiment. [194444]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 12 March 2008, five UK Territorial Army personnel have died while on deployment in Iraq since the start of operations in 2003; three privates, one corporal and one sergeant.

At the time of their deaths two members of the Territorial Army were serving with the 52nd Lowland Regiment, one was serving with the 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment (Volunteers), one was serving with the Royal Military Police and one was serving with the Tyne-Tees Regiment.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of *(a)* the Territorial Army and *(b)* Commonwealth forces served in Iraq in each year since 2003. [194445]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the number of Commonwealth forces who have served in Iraq in each year since 2003 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of Territorial Army personnel who have deployed to Iraq in the same period, is as follows:

	Number
2002-03	3746
2003-04	4,458
2004-05	1,612
2005-06	1,189
2006-07	493
2007-08	334
Total	11,832

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Marines have been killed in operations in Iraq since 2003. [194446]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 12 March 2008, a total of 174 UK armed forces personnel have died while on deployment or as a result of injuries sustained in Iraq, broken down as follows:

20 Royal Navy personnel (12 Royal Marines);
132 Army personnel; and
22 RAF personnel.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Nimrod MR2 aircraft were *(a)* in service and *(b)* fit for purpose at the latest date for which figures are available. [193096]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Nimrod MR2 aircraft that are planned to be in service with the RAF on 31 March 2008 is 15.

The average number of Nimrod MR2 aircraft which were fit for purpose in February 2008 was five. Aircraft defined as fit for purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on peacekeeping operations, whether there is a NATO Operational Reserve Force for ISAF forces in Afghanistan. [193178]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Operational Reserve Force (ORF) for ISAF was provided from August to December 2006 by Romania. Since December 2006, it has been an unfilled requirement on NATO's Combined Joint Statement of Requirements. NATO is working to ensure that the ISAF ORF requirement is met as soon as possible. There are existing in-theatre and strategic reserves.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Article 3 of the Treaty of Lisbon is justiciable by the European Court of Justice. [191938]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) does not justify provisions in EU Treaties. Article 220 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community makes clear that the ECJ's role is to

> "ensure that in the interpretation and application of this Treaty the law is observed".

TREASURY

Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the records project specification and plan of the Valuation Office Agency. [192198]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has yet to decide if it will introduce an electronic document and records management system and, if so, to what specification.

Assets

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median value of *(a)* gross assets and *(b)* net assets held by (i) individuals and (ii) households was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [194576]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the median value of (a) gross assets and (b) net assets held by (i) individuals and (ii) households was in the most recent year for which figures are available. (194576)

There are currently no official estimates available of the median value of gross or net assets, for either individuals or households. Estimates will be available from the Wealth and Assets Survey that is now being carried out.

Benzodiazepines: Death

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from drug-related poisoning occurred in England where *(a)* benzodiazepines were mentioned and *(b)* benzodiazepines were mentioned with other drugs in each year from 1999 to 2006. [194101]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from drug related poisoning occurred in England where (a) benzodiazepines were total mentions and (b) benzodiazepines were mentioned with other drugs in each year from 1999 to 2006. (194101)

The table below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning, and where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record, alone or with other substances. Figures are provided for usual residents of England for the years 1999 to 2006.

Deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record, England[2], 1999 to 2006[3]

	Total mentions[4]	*Mentions without other drugs*
1999	245	46
2000	189	33
2001	222	32
2002	228	34
2003	198	29
2004	218	40
2005	176	30
2006	159	30

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (JCD-9) codes 292, 303, 305,2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E980.0-E980.5 andE962.0 for the years 1999 and 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes FII-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and YIO-Y14 from 2001 onwards. These deaths were selected where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record.
[2] Deaths of usual residents of England.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Includes benzodiazepines mentioned with other drugs.

Cancer

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the survival rates for each of the main categories of cancer are in each primary care trust in England in the last three years for which figures are available. [194179]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the survival rates for each of the main categories of cancer are in each primary care trust in England in the last three years for which figures are available. (194179)

The Office for National Statistics does not produce survival rates by primary care trust area. The lowest geographical area for which rates are available are strategic health authority areas. The latest one- and five-year survival for eight common cancers by government office region, and strategic health authority, for patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991 &Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Child Benefit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been to his Department of sending letters to child benefit claimants notifying them of the annual increase in child benefit in the last 12 month period for which data are available; and how many letters have been sent. [193580]

Jane Kennedy: During the last completed exercise, which ended on 28 March 2007, 7.4 million letters were issued advising customers of the amount of child benefit they would receive from 9 April 2007.

The issuing of the up-rating letter is a routine business process: it is only possible to provide a separate cost for the exercise at disproportionate expense.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions the Valuation Office Agency has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on council tax revaluation. [193972]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* No discussions, recent or otherwise, have taken place between the Valuation Office Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to any future council tax revaluation in Wales.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes were made on overhead apportionment between cost centres within his Department in financial year 2006-07; and what assessment he has made of the net effect on these changes on costs attributable to the provision of tax credits. [190013]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits are a priority for HM Revenue and Customs. Staff numbers increased in 2006-07, particularly to add extra capacity on the tax credits helpline. 1.3 million more calls were handled in 2006-07 than in 2005-06.

The increase in administrative costs reflects both the increase in staff numbers and a new method in apportioning overheads which in 2006-07 increased the proportion allocated to tax credits.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints from individuals directly his Department has received as a consequence of the loss of personal data held by his Department and its agencies. [185809]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available in respect of the Treasury and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188221]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury, including its agencies has engaged a US registered service provider to manage aspects of storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

In addition the Treasury, including its agencies has engaged a UK subsidiary of a US registered service provider to manage aspects of storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European Economic Area by UK data controllers.

Contracts are based on UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193556]

Angela Eagle: The information you require is detailed in the following table:

Year	*Number*	*Percentage of staff*
2006-07	83	7.4
2007-08	86	7.1

HM Revenue and Customs Business Brief

Clive Efford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received on the provisions of HM Revenue and Customs Business Brief 50/07; [193471]

(2) if he will make it his policy not to pursue back-payment of value added tax from sports and leisure trusts under the terms of HM Revenue and Customs Business Brief 50/07. [193472]

Jane Kennedy: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range of issues.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a statutory duty to collect VAT that has been under declared, and may assess to recover arrears of VAT where VAT was properly due but was not charged and was not paid over to HMRC.

Although the Commissioners of HMRC may make concessions in certain circumstances, for example where administrative savings would outweigh the tax, in this instance, not collecting VAT that is properly due would be beyond what is legally permissible.

However, the Commissioners do have discretionary power to grant extra time to pay arrears where this is appropriate in the individual circumstances of the taxpayer and consistent with the commission its arrears it should approach HMRC to ask for a time to pay arrangement to be considered.

Furthermore, where evidence can be provided that an individual taxpayer has accounted for VAT incorrectly because of a bona fide misunderstanding, or because he has been misdirected by HMRC, within the terms of extra statutory concessions 3.4 and 3.5 as published in HMRC Notice 48?Extra statutory concessions, HMRC will not seek to recover arrears of the tax.

Income Tax: Overpayments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of unclaimed income tax overpayments for the last period for which figures are available. [193382]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 March 208]:* HM Revenue and Customs wants all business and individuals to pay only the correct amount of tax and therefore repays overpaid tax, usually without a formal claim being required.

HMRC does not hold information on the value of unclaimed overpayments. In the NAO Standard Report on HMRC 2006-07 Accounts published 6 July 2007 the Comptroller and Auditor General estimated that around £340 million may be overpaid in income tax by customers within the PAYE process.

Nationality: Northern Ireland

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in Northern Ireland were *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* Irish citizens, *(c)* both and *(d)* neither on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by county. [194385]

Angela Eagle: This is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Personal Savings

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median value of savings held by individuals was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [194575]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what planning applications his Department has made to Westminster City Council since May 1997; and what the *(a)* planning reference number and *(b)* purpose of each application was. [194404]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has made no planning applications to Westminster city council since May 1997.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Greg Clark: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to provide public access to the General Register Office's microfiche indexes in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK. [194536]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about what plans there are to provide public access to the General Register Office's microfiche indexes in (a) London and (b) elsewhere in the UK. [194536]

The General Register Office has entered into discussion and agreement with a number of public facilities throughout England and Wales on the hosting of microfiche copies of the indexes and to provide free access.

Upon closure of the Family Records Centre these indexes will be made publicly available at centres to include Greater Manchester County Record Office, Birmingham Central Library, Bridgend Reference and Information Library and Plymouth Central Library as well as at the National Archives in Kew.

The General Register Office plan to make the indexes available at another location in central London and are currently in discussion with an archive centre in the City of Westminster.

Revenue and Customs: Track and Trace Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on the track and trace programme in each of the last 12 months. [193333]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* For the year April 2006 to March 2007, HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post.

HMRC may make use of track and trace services in the following circumstances if deemed appropriate by the business area:

Parcels to non-residential addresses

Tracking and tracing of letters and courier network list recipients where required by the business unit in question.

Urgent delivery of urgent / valuable mail

Where goods require special handling (hazardous / perishable / fragile)

Same Day Timed service

Next Day services

2/3 Day services

HMRC spend on track and trace services in each of the last 12 months is as follows:

	£
2007	
March	52,781.42
April	52,308.16
May	48,633.19
June	39,829.93
July	42,217.68
August	49,790.26
September	35,595.84
October	36,245.09
November	37,313.96
December	37,138.84
2008	
January	65,922.71
February	91,471.11

The recent increase in cost of track and trace services reflects the tightening of HMRC's data handling procedures, following the loss of child benefit data.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2589W, on taxation: gambling, if he will publish a breakdown of betting and gaming duties showing how much remote gaming duty has been collected since its introduction. [194383]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs are not currently able to publish a breakdown of remote gaming duty while maintaining taxpayer confidentiality.

Valuation Office: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of industrial action at the Valuation Office Agency on the agency's work on *(a)* council tax valuations and *(b)* business rates revaluation. [193845]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency expects that it will be able to maintain the essential services it provides to customers throughout the period of industrial action, which is planned to end on 31 March 2008.

Valuation Office: Retirement

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the November 2007 (National) Whitley Council meeting of the Valuation Office Agency; and whether the Agency plans to review the retirement age for its staff. [192326]

Jane Kennedy: The minutes of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) National Whitley Committee meeting, held on 15 November 2007, have been placed in the Library. The VOA reviewed its policy on the retirement age for its employees and decided to remove the upper retirement age of 65 with effect from 1 January 2008.

Valuation Office: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals regarding revaluation in Wales the Agency has processed in the last three years; how many of these were allowed *(a)* in whole and *(b)* in part; and how many appeals were outstanding at the latest date for which figures are available. [194044]

Jane Kennedy: As at 29 February 2008 the Valuation Office Agency had received 20,316 formal appeals against the 2005 Council Tax Lists for Wales. As at the same date 19,716 had been cleared, of which 12,458 resulted in an amendment to the council tax band. As at 29 February 2008, 599 formal appeals were outstanding.

VAT

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in revenue to the Exchequer which would result from a one penny rise in the rate of value added tax in 2008-09. [194017]

Jane Kennedy: Effects of illustrative percentage point changes in VAT rates are published in Table 6 of the Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs, which is published annually alongside the pre-Budget Report. It is available from the HM Treasury website and a hard copy can be found in the House of Commons' Library.

VAT: Bingo

Mike Wood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he considered in maintaining value added tax on bingo participation fees in the 2007 Budget. [194091]

Angela Eagle: The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes.

VAT: Sunscreens

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations have been made to his Department for the removal of Value Added Tax from suncare products; and if he will make a statement. [193616]

Jane Kennedy: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range of issues. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 998W, to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have applied to be removed from tax credit schemes since 2003. [190015]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Free Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the proposed EU-ASEAN free trade agreement on the military regime in Burma. [193476]

Meg Munn: The UK has consistently made it clear that the Government cannot agree to Burma benefiting from an EU-Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Agreement until it achieves an inclusive transition to democracy.

Burma: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the United Nations and ASEAN bring pressure on the military regime in Burma to *(a)* revise its proposed constitution, referendum and elections and *(b)* engage in dialogue with the National League for Democracy and the ethnic nationalities. [193383]

Meg Munn: Since the announcement of a referendum and elections, the Government have been at the forefront of international calls to the Burmese regime to ensure it is a genuinely inclusive process. Our permanent mission in New York has discussed the fundamental flaws of the constitution with Professor Gambari, who has just completed his third visit to Burma since the crackdown last autumn. We will continue to press for action within the UN. We keep in close contact with partners in the region, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to build up constructive pressure on the Burmese regime and their continued engagement on Burma related issues. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Burma with his Vietnamese counterpart in London. I spelt out our concerns with the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (18 February 2008), the Thai Foreign Minister, Noppadon, and the Thai Minister of Interior, the ASEAN Secretary-General (29 February 2008) and the Indonesian Foreign Minister (3 March 2008). I spoke to Thai Foreign Minister Noppadon again on this issue on 11 March 2008.

Burma: India

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian government on the situation in Burma. [193463]

Meg Munn: We continue to raise Burma regularly with the Indian Government and at the highest levels. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the situation with Prime Minister Singh during his January visit to India and Burma featured in the joint statement that emerged from that visit. Our high commission in Delhi remains engaged on the issue in its discussions with the Indian Government. We continue to encourage all those with influence on the Burmese regime to keep up pressure for reconciliation and reform, which must allow the full participation of the opposition and ethnic groups.

Burma: Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has recently discussed the case of Khun Tun Oo with the Burmese military regime. [193469]

Meg Munn: U Khun Tun Oo, Leader of Shan National League for Democracy, remains in prison serving a 93-year sentence. The Government have, bilaterally and through EU and UN mechanisms, repeatedly called for the release of all political prisoners in Burma. This was a fundamental demand in the UN Presidential Statement of 11 October 2007.

Burma: Referendums

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the role that the Union Solidarity Development Association will have in *(a)* organising local-level voting and *(b)* other respects in the referendum and proposed elections in Burma. [193465]

Meg Munn: While the precise role of the Union Solidarity Development Association is as yet unknown, we believe that the regime in Burma will use its membership in the election process to secure the result that it desires. We do not discount the possibility that the semi-government social organisation will play a central role both in the organisation of the voting and counting processes and in supporting the 'yes' vote for the forthcoming referendum in Burma. This would further undermine the credibility of the regime's roadmap.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the rules for the conduct of the proposed constitutional referendum in Burma, with particular reference to those which indicate that the regime will not take account of abstentions and no votes. [193466]

Meg Munn: On 27 February 2008 the State Peace and Development Council issued the referendum law, announcing a referendum committee and setting out regulations on electoral rolls, voting and counting procedures for the proposed constitutional referendum. The regulation (Chapter VIII 22 (a)(l)) states

> "votes in favour, votes against and cancelled votes shall be differentiated and counted".

There is no indication that abstentions and no votes will be ignored. It is, however, unclear what percentage of the vote will be needed for the constitution to be passed. We continue to press, bilaterally and through the UN, for a credible process that allows people to voice their views freely, including political prisoners and ethnic nationalities, and responds to the aspirations of the people of Burma.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Burma's military regime new law which will result in the potential imprisonment of anyone who distributes leaflets or delivers speeches against the proposed constitutional referendum. [193467]

Meg Munn: On 27 February, the State Peace and Development Council issued the referendum law, announcing a referendum committee and setting out regulations on electoral rolls, voting and counting procedures for the proposed constitutional referendum. One element of the regulation is a ban on public or private anti-referendum activities. The crime carries a sentence of up to three years or a heavy fine. The regulation is clearly intended to silence opposition. Unless the process allows people to express their views on the referendum freely, including those who have been silenced by their detention, the process will not be credible, neither to the people of Burma nor to the international community.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the proposed referendum on the draft constitution in Burma will be free and fair. [193468]

Meg Munn: We have consistently made clear that only an inclusive process of national reconciliation can bring stability and prosperity to the country. Laws that make it a crime to criticise the referendum and to campaign against it are also unacceptable. The regime's attempts to exclude certain groups and individuals from the political process fail to meet international demands and will exacerbate tension and instability in

Burma. In our contacts with the military government, and those who have influence over them, we continue to stress the need for all political actors, including Aung San Suu Kyi and all political leaders, as well as political organisations representing ethnic nationalities, to be allowed to play their full part in shaping the country's future.

Burma: Refugees

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the government of Malaysia their treatment of Burmese refugees in Malaysia. [193474]

Meg Munn: Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur keeps in regular contact with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. Our high commission has consistently supported the work of the UNHCR, including in addressing the issue of recognition of UNHCR-certified persons of concern.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to raise this issue with the Malaysian Government. Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur is working with the UNHCR on the way forward.

Burma: Thailand

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the policies of the Royal Thai Government towards the military regime in Burma. [193475]

Meg Munn: I discussed issues relating to Burma with the Thai Foreign Minister, Noppadon Pattama, on 29 February during my recent visit to Thailand.

The Thai Foreign Minister assured me that the new Thai Government want to become more actively engaged on Burma as part of a wider "Neighbourhood Engagement Policy". Foreign Minister Noppadon has said that he wants to help move Burma towards democracy. He stated that the political process in Burma must be inclusive and the forthcoming referendum credible. We continue to discuss all aspects of the Burma situation with the Thai Government on a regular basis and have asked the Thai Government to convey the concerns of the international community when Prime Minister Samak visits Burma this month.

Fisheries: EC Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what correspondence he received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the *(a)* proposed European Constitution and *(b)* Lisbon Treaty on (i) fisheries, (ii) the marine environment and (iii) marine biological resources; and if he will make a statement. [190952]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs correspond regularly on a range of EU business, including on matters concerning the Lisbon treaty and, in the past, the abandoned constitutional treaty.

The Lisbon treaty extends co-decision to agriculture and fisheries, but otherwise does not make any significant change in relation to fisheries and marine policy issues where it simply reflects the extent of powers under the current treaties.

Human Rights: Conferences

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which issues were raised by the UK representative at the 31 August 2007 preparatory conference for Durban II on *(a)* anti-Semitism, *(b)* Holocaust education and *(c)* the UK's view of the events of Durban I. [194165]

Meg Munn: The Presidency of the European Union spoke on behalf of all member states at the August 2007 Durban Review Conference preparatory committee. As outlined in the response I gave to my hon. Friend on 28 February 2008 *Official Report,* columns 1822-23W, the agenda has not yet been discussed in detail. The Government takes work on Holocaust education and remembrance very seriously. Article 58 of the Durban declaration made clear that the Holocaust must not be forgotten. We will seek opportunities with our EU partners to give Holocaust education and remembrance appropriate attention as negotiations continue.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the minutes of preparatory meetings for Durban II. [194166]

Meg Munn: The UN published a report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee on its website, which can be accessed at:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc.

Reports of future meetings will be published on the same website.

Malaysia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the government of Malaysia to disband RELA the Volunteer People's Corp. [193473]

Meg Munn: The People's Volunteer Corps (RELA) is a legally constituted body within the Malaysian system. Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur follows the situation of refugees in Malaysia closely, including the activities of government agencies such as RELA.

We have no plans to raise RELA with the Malaysian Government. Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur is in contact with the Office of the UN high commissioner for refugees on a regular basis on this issue.

Sudan: China

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has made to his Chinese counterpart on Chinese investment in the Sudanese oil industry and the likely impact of such investments on the conflict in Darfur; and if he will make a statement; [193234]

(2) what the Government's policy is on Chinese involvement in the Sudanese oil industry; whether he has made representations to his Chinese counterpart on this issue, with particular reference to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [193236]

Meg Munn: We are expanding dialogue and co-operation with China on African issues including Sudan, and urging China to use its influence to play a constructive role on Darfur.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed with Premier Wen on 18 January in Beijing to advance the deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur, a ceasefire and a political process in Darfur, and that the international community should support recovery and economic reconstruction in Darfur.

We welcome comments at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa on 30 January by China's Special Envoy for Africa, Liu Guijin, calling publicly on the Government of Sudan to do more to end the crisis in Darfur. UK Ministers had further talks on these issues with Chinese counterparts during the Chinese Special Envoy's visit to the UK on 21-22 February and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's visit to China on 25-29 February.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote awareness of the Darfur crisis in China; whether he has made representations to the Chinese authorities on Chinese investment in Sudan; whether he has been informed by the Chinese government of its intentions regarding the humanitarian crisis in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [193235]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed key objectives on Darfur with Chinese Premier Wen in his visit to China on 18 January.

UK Ministers agreed with the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa, Liu Guijin, in London on 21-22 February the key goals of accelerating the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur deployment so as to improve security and humanitarian access, re-energising the Darfur political process, and supporting implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reinforced these messages during his visit to China on 25-29 February, both in talks with Chinese Ministers and in a public speech at Peking University.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 March 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what payments the Electoral Commission made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194318]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the total payment made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months was £181,928. This covered five public opinion research studies where the public were consulted on a number of issues including electoral administration, electoral registration, the conduct of elections, party funding and absent voters.

Political Parties: Finance

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission on what dates specific guidance was sent to hon. and right hon. Members by the Electoral Commission on the reporting of donations by regulated donees since 2000. [194233]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Commission's guidance for Members of Parliament was included in the Standards in the Commons pack produced by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and sent by that Office to all Members in December 2003.

Following the 2005 general election, the Commission's summary guidance for Members was included in the Standards in the Commons pack sent by the Office of the Commissioner in May 2005 to all new Members. All Members elected at subsequent by-elections have also been provided with a copy of the summary guidance.

The Commission has written separately to regulated donees who stand for elective office within their party, offering advice and providing a copy of the relevant regulated donee guidance.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Zero-Grazing

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions on the welfare implications for dairy cattle of zero-grazing he has had at EU level; and if he will make a statement. [193664]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not held any discussions at EU level and there are none planned in the foreseeable future.

Air Pollution: East of England

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 2270-71W, on air pollution: East of England, what funds each local authority in the East of England has received from the Department's air quality grant programme; and how many individual grants were made in the East of England under the programme in each of the last three years. [193280]

Jonathan Shaw: The air quality grant programme is a capital grant scheme established under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The following table details the air quality grant payments made in the last three financial years to local authorities in the East of England.

	Award		
East of England	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cambridge city council joint award with South Cambridgeshire district council and Huntingdonshire district council	—	—	15,000.00
Chelmsford borough council	—	—	10,000.00
Great Yarmouth borough council	—	—	18,000.00
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk borough council	—	—	43,000.00
Mid Bedford district council	—	10,000.00	18,500.00
South Cambridgeshire district council	—	—	27,000.00
Suffolk county council	—	24,000.00	6,200.00
Ipswich borough council	32,904.00	—	—
South Norfolk council	15,000.00	—	—
North Norfolk district council	20,000.00	—	—
Bedford borough council	—	28,000.00	—
Broxbourne borough council	—	10,000.00	—
Colchester borough council	—	13,500.00	—
Fenland district council	—	3,390.00	—
St. Albans district council	—	15,000.00	—
Suffolk Coastal district council	—	65,000.00	—
Total	67,904.00	168,890.00	137,700.00

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2270-71W, on air pollution: East of England, how many areas formerly designated as air quality management areas have had that designation lifted in each year since 1997. [193281]

Jonathan Shaw: Local authorities can amend or revoke an existing air quality management area order where it appears from a subsequent air quality review that the air quality standards and objectives are being achieved and are likely to continue to be achieved within the designated area.

Since 1997, seven local authorities in the East of England have revoked air quality management areas, as shown in table 1. Where a local authority had designated more than one individual air quality management area, or one single larger area, the authority only revoked the area where the objectives were achieved. Following the revocation, some local authorities declared further air quality management areas in different areas within their borough where air quality objectives were not being achieved. These are shown in table 2.

Table 1

	Number of local authorities that revoked air quality management areas
2003	1
2004	3
2005	1
2006	2
2007	0

Table 2

Number	*Authority*	*Year of revocation*	*Pollution*	*Current status*
1.	Babergh district council	2004	Nitrogen dioxide	Authority has no air quality management area.
2.	East Hertfordshire council	2004	Particulate matter	Authority still has an air quality management area for nitrogen dioxide.
3.	Hertsmere council	2006	Nitrogen dioxide	Authority has declared further air quality management areas for nitrogen dioxide.
4.	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk district council	2006	Particulate matter	Authority still has an air quality management area for nitrogen dioxide.
5.	St. Albans city and district council	2004	Nitrogen dioxide	Authority has declared further air quality management areas for nitrogen dioxide.
6.	St. Edmundsbury borough council	2003	Nitrogen dioxide	Authority has no air quality management area.
7.	Thurrock council	2005	Nitrogen dioxide	Authority has declared further air quality management areas for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

Eaga Partnership: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will arrange for Eaga to send a substantive reply to the letter to the Chief Executive of Eaga Partnership of 16 January 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North pursuant to the interim reply of 19 February 2008. [193543]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 March 2008]*: Following on from Eaga's interim reply of 19 February, a full response has now been dispatched.

Ground Water: Pollution

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 sites have the highest level of contamination of groundwater by *(a)* PCBs and *(b)* other toxic substances in England; what remedial action is proposed for each site; and if he will make a statement. [191939]

Mr. Woolas: Most contaminated land in England, including where groundwater is contaminated, is inspected and regulated by local authorities. This can be undertaken through the land use planning regime or Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA1990). For this reason we do not hold detailed, national information about the sites where groundwater is contaminated by any particular substance or group of substances.

Landfill Tax

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the operation by his Department of disbursement arrangements of tax foregone on the landfill levy. [193487]

Joan Ruddock: My officials and I have regular discussions with representatives from HM Treasury. Disbursement arrangements of tax forgone on the landfill levy is however, a matter for HM Treasury Ministers to decide.

Waste Management: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by his Department to local authority chief executives in October 2007 with the subject Classification and reporting of waste. [193897]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

Water Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the timetable is of the independent review of water charging announced in his Department's water strategy; [193305]

(2) what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* scope of the independent review of water charging is; and if he will make a statement; [193306]

(3) who will undertake the independent review of water charging announced in his Department's water strategy. [193307]

Mr. Woolas: In "Future Water", the Government's water strategy, we outlined informally both the remit and scope for the independent review of charging households for water and sewerage services. Work is under way to commission the review, including appointing a reviewer and agreeing the final terms of reference and timetable for the review. These details will be announced in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Homosexuality: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a meeting has taken place between the organiser of the 2007 Belfast Pride parade and the full Parades Commission; and if he will make a statement. [194748]

Paul Goggins: I can confirm that a meeting took place between the parade organiser and the full Parades Commission on 30 January 2008.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many accidents resulting in injuries have occurred on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [194703]

Nick Harvey: The number of reported accidents resulting in injuries which have occurred on the parliamentary estate is as follows:

Calendar year	*Reported injuries*
2003	215
2004	172
2005	143
2006	143
2007	136

John McDonnell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many incidents there have been in which House of Commons security officers have been injured in the course of their work in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and at which location each injury occurred. [194704]

Nick Harvey: The number of reported incidents resulting in injuries to individuals, including police officers, who undertake security duties is set out as follows. Figures are not available for years before 2005.

Calendar year	*Number of reported injuries*	*Location of incident*
2005	16	Black Rod's Garden (2) Portcullis House escalators (2) St. Stephen's search point (2) Derby Gate (3) Mess room (1) Canon Row (1) Chancellor's Gate (1) New Palace Yard (1) Palm Court (1) Carriage Gates (1) Norman Shaw North (1)
2006	13	Speaker's Court (1) Peers' entrance/car park (2) St. Stephen's search point (1) Derby Gate (1) Flower shop (1) Canon Row (2) Chancellor's Gate (1) New Palace Yard (1) Carriage Gates (1) Norman Shaw North (1) Westminster Underground entrance (1)
2007	18	Black Rod's Garden (2) Royal Court (1) Palm Court (2) Portcullis House (1) St. Stephen's search point (1) Derby Gate (2) Abingdon Street (1) Canon Row (1) Carriage Gates (3) Norman Porch (1) New Palace Yard (1) Palm Court (2)

John McDonnell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the House authorities have paid in compensation for injuries occurring on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [194705]

Nick Harvey: The cash amounts paid in compensation for injuries in each of the last five financial years was:

	£
2003-04	47,563
2004-05	55,921
2005-06	28,362
2006-07	10,836
2007-08	20,318

Parliamentary ICT

Mr. Laws: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that Parliamentary ICT staff provide support and services to all IT equipment and software on the parliamentary estate which is *(a)* purchased with parliamentary allowances and *(b)* used for parliamentary business; and if he will make a statement. [193512]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has recently endorsed the recommendation of the Administration Committee that Parliamentary ICT (PICT) can only offer full support to centrally provided IT equipment, services and software, on both practical and economic grounds. PICT will be announcing two new services shortly that will allow those Members who use their equipment to connect directly to the internet from their Westminster office over broadband at their own expense or for free via wireless in one of the Wi Fi zones that are currently available across the estate. With the agreement of the Commission, PICT is considering the circumstances under which limited 'best endeavours' support can be offered to Members own equipment that is used for parliamentary purposes.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many security passes which give access to the Palace of Westminster and its associated buildings were issued in each of the last five years, broken down by category; and if he will make a statement. [192535]

Nick Harvey: Total numbers of passes issued giving access to the Palace of Westminster and its associated outbuildings in each of the last five years are:

	Number
2003	13,047
2004	13,675
2005	14,456
2006	13,935
2007-08	13,335

The change to the access and pass system meant that new passes were issued to all passholders during 2007. Instead of a misleadingly high figure for 2007, therefore, a figure is given for 2007-08 on the basis of the number of active passes on 13 March 2008.

The information by category is available but is in a format that related to the old pass categories, which no longer exist. Prior to 5 November 2007 there were over 90 categories of pass. With the introduction of the new access control system this number has been substantially reduced.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females, broken down by age group, had their Palace of Westminster pass (i) suspended and (ii) revoked in each year since 1997; and what the reason was in each case. [192540]

Nick Harvey: Only one Palace of Westminster pass has been revoked since 1997. This revocation was in 2007 and was for reasons of security intelligence.

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many members of the press lobby *(a)* have vehicle passes for the Palace of Westminster and *(b)* have had their lobby passes removed in the last 10 years. [192596]

Nick Harvey: Currently 10 members of the press lobby have vehicle passes for the Palace of Westminster. The provision of any future passes is under review.

No lobby passes have been removed in the last 10 years.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on which occasions *(a)* objects were thrown into the Chamber from the public gallery and *(b)* the public gallery was closed during a sitting of the House by order of the Speaker in each session since 1977-78. [192616]

Nick Harvey: Police records only go back as far as 2001. There is one incident recorded which occurred on 21 February 2005. This relates to the Fathers 4 Justice demonstrators who threw purple powder at the Prime Minister during Prime Minister's Questions. Two persons were arrested and the House was suspended for a short time, including the closure of the public gallery. This is the only recorded closure of the public gallery by order of the Speaker.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Department

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new urgent care centres are planned to open by 2011; and if he will make a statement. [193737]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are responsible for the provision of a high quality, integrated urgent care service that meets the needs of their local population. There are no national plans to open new urgent care centres.

Breastfeeding

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 665W, on breastfeeding, how much was spent on the National Helpline in the 2007-08 financial year. [194799]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2003, the Department initiated the development of the National Breastfeeding Helpline in collaboration with the voluntary sector. In 2007-08, the Department provided a total of £2,000 to meet the cost of rented lines.

Chronically Sick: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework of Long-Term Conditions in Castle Point. [193051]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South East Essex PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from South East Essex PCT.

Dental Services: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking on the provision of NHS dental services in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194890]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Responsibility for the provision of dental services lies with local primary care trusts (PCTs). Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS operating framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. The net primary dental service allocation for North Lancashire PCT for 2008-09 is £7,015,000. Income from dental charges paid by patients will supplement this resource.

The North Lancashire PCT is responsible for commissioning services, including dental services, to meet the need of its total population within the available resources.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182995]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the percentage of departmental expenditure against advertising expenditure in each of the years where figures are available.

							£ million
	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Department of Health resource expenditure[1]	49,284	56,750	61,661	69,777	75,434	85,647	92,021
Central departmental spending on advertising[2]	43	34	38	50	54	43	41
NHS spending on advertising[3]	102	119	124	132	114	75	37
Total spend on advertising	145	153	162	182	168	117	77
Percentage of Department's spend on advertising	0.29	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.22	0.14	0.08

[1] Annex A2 of departmental report.
[2] Annex E of departmental report.
[3] Annual financial returns of health authorities, strategic health authorities, primary care trusts 2000-01 to 2006-07.
Note:
NHS financial accounts report advertising as a single line so therefore it is not possible to identify media only spend.

Departmental Land

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of land owned by his Department is unused; and if he will make a statement. [193013]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is estimated that 70 per cent. of stand-alone land owned by the Department is unused. All such land is programmed either to be sold or its ownership transferred to the national health service for long-term health use.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191518]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of people over the age of 55 recruited by the Department in each of the last three full financial years and in the first 11 months of the current financial year are presented in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of staff*
2007-08 (11 months)	5
2006-07	1
2005-06	14
2004-05	5

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential properties are owned by his Department; how many of these are vacant; and how many have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months. [192918]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department owns 22 individual residential properties, nine of which are in one block.

14 are occupied and the remainder have been vacant for more than 12 months. All bar one has been marketed.

Residential accommodation that may have existed on surplus hospital sites awaiting disposal has not been included.

Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to his Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190297]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is only available from 2003, as set out in the following table.

	Number of named day questions received	*Number answered on the day specified*	*Percentage answered on the day specified*
2003	1,113	321	29
2004	1,055	325	31
2005	1,299	293	16
2006	1,714	906	53
2007	1,426	855	60

Elderly: Carers

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support is made available to persons over the age of 65 acting as full-time carers. [191878]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

Since October 2002, carers aged 65 or over have been able to claim carer's allowance.

A carer who receives state pension at a lower rate than carer's allowance can receive an amount of carer's allowance to make up the difference. Carers who are entitled to a rate of state pension equivalent to or more than the rate of carer's allowance cannot receive both benefits. However, entitlement to carer's allowance also attracts the additional amount for carers in pension credit, currently £27.15 per week, for those eligible. More than 220,000 carers in lower-income households are gaining from this measure.

Emergency Ambulance Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of operating emergency ambulance services in Hemel Hempstead constituency was in each year since 1997; [194795]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve emergency ambulance services in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [194796]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on expenditure is not available in the format requested. Information prior to 2000-01 is not available. Information is held by ambulance trust rather than by constituency. The Hemel Hempstead constituency is served by East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, which was formed in 2006. Prior to that, it was served by Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Paramedic and Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Information for these individual organisations from 2000-01 onwards is shown in the following table.

The emergency patient transport services expenditure for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Paramedic and Ambulance Service NHS Trust (2000-06) and for East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

	Name of trust	*Emergency patient transport services expenditure (£000)*
2000-01	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	16,891
2001-02	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	20,079
2002-03	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	22,609
2003-04	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	23,975
2004-05	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	28,540
2005-06	Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Trust	35,550
2006-07	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	104,522

Source:
National Health Service Trust Financial Returns TFR6 2000-01 to 2006-07

It is for strategic health authorities, as the local headquarters of the NHS, and primary care trusts, as commissioners, to ensure that national response time standards are delivered and maintained by ambulance trusts.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this with the chief executive of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

General Practitioners

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries serve settlements of fewer than 10,000 people; and how many such surgeries were sold to private providers in each year since 1997. [192826]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2007, there were 1,221 general practitioner (GP) practices located in settlements of fewer than 10,000 people. We do not hold information on the sale of GP practices to any form of contractors.

General Practitioners: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by out of hours GP services in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire in each of the last 10 years. [193622]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to approach the chief executive of South Staffordshire Primary Care

Trust (PCT), which may hold some information on numbers of patients seen by out of hours general practitioner services.

PCTs now have a legal responsibility to ensure that they provide, or secure provision of out of hours services for their local population.

General Practitioners: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP superclinics he plans to establish in Tamworth constituency. [193632]

Mr. Bradshaw: South Staffordshire PCT will receive additional investment to procure a new general practitioner-led Health Centre from the £250 million access fund announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 10 October 2007. This Health Centre will open seven days a week from 8 am until 8 pm and will offer flexible appointments and walk-in and other services, for either registered or non-registered patients.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of general practitioners were contracted by their primary care trust to provide extended opening hours in each year since 2004-05. [192428]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of GP surgeries that routinely open out of hours, broken down by primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [192678]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to ensure that requirements for GPs to extend opening hours in the evening or at weekends are not accompanied by reductions in availability at other times; and if he will make a statement. [193966]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts already have a duty to ensure that general practitioner practices are fulfilling their current contractual obligations of core hour availability. This will not change when opening hours are extended.

As part of the directed enhanced service arrangements, currently being negotiated with the British Medical Association, and its accompanying guidance, we will ensure that extended opening hours will be in addition to what is already being offered by practices and that there should be no consequential reductions of availability during core hours.

Health Services: Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent from each central budget held at (i) his Department and (ii) strategic health authorities in each of the last five years. [191452]

Mr. Bradshaw: Listings of all Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations (CFISSA) programme allocations by budget title and value from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are contained in the departmental reports which are available in the Library. Details are as follows:

2003—Table 6.6 Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocations

2004—Table 6.6 Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocations

2005—Table 6.9 Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocations

2006—Table 6.9 Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocations

2007—Table 9.21 Centrally Managed NHS Budgets

The CFISSA programme is the national health service related funding that is not issued to primary care trusts as part of their initial resource limits. Commencing with the 2007 Departmental Report this area is now referred to as the centrally managed NHS Budgets.

Total expenditure of the CFISSA/centrally managed programme from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is contained in the operating cost statement in each year of the Resource Accounts.

It would be at disproportionate cost for the Department to list expenditure from each individual central budget held in each of the last five years due to the very large number of budgets and several departmental re-organisations.

Health Services: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish a breakdown of *(a)* the costs to date and *(b)* the estimated final costs of the Healthcare for London Review; [190923]

(2) how much has been paid to *(a)* IPSOS MORI and *(b)* other external providers in relation to the Healthcare for London review; [190924]

(3) how many responses to date *(a)* in total and *(b)* from each primary care trust area have been received by the Healthcare for London Review. [190925]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Proposals for changes to services are a matter for the national health service locally. The Department does not hold information on the detailed breakdown of Healthcare for London's costs and responses—this is available directly from NHS London.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this issue locally with NHS London.

Health Services: Private Sector

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of healthcare has been delivered by the private sector in each year since 1980. [194234]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: The Department has figures for the total purchase of healthcare from non-national health service bodies for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07, as shown in the following table. However, it should be noted that these figures relate to healthcare expenditure with all non-NHS bodies including the private sector.

Spend on non-NHS provision

	Total (£)	*As a percentage of NHS expenditure*
1997-98	1,108,182	3.20
1998-99	1,230,425	3.36
1999-2000	1,301,196	3.24
2000-01	1,549,172	3.53
2001-02	1,792,967	3.66
2002-03	2,239,331	4.14
2003-04	3,315,893	5.26
2004-05	3,666,024	5.26
2005-06	4,415,531	5.68
2006-07	4,984,156	6.16

Note:
2004-05 to 2006-07 exclude NHS Foundation Trusts.
Source:
Annual financial returns for primary care trusts, (strategic) health authorities and NHS trusts for 1997-98 to 2006-07.

The NHS commissions healthcare from a number of non-NHS bodies including private sector providers, local authorities, voluntary bodies, other statutory bodies and the independent sector.

Hospital Beds

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of patients occupying an acute bed with delayed discharge per 100,000 population was in *(a)* the West Kent primary care trust area and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [194601]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Patients of all ages occupying an acute hospital bed with delayed discharge per 100,000 population

	Number
England	4.12
West Kent PCT	4.23

Source:
Department of Health form: local delivery plan Commissioner (quarter three 2007-08).
Office for National statistics mid-year population estimates 2006.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hospital waiting times were in *(a)* Torbay Primary Care Trust area, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years; and what the average waiting time was in each such areas in each specialism in each of the last 10 years. [192263]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients had been waiting more than six months for an NHS operation in an English hospital on 31 January. [194597]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the end of January there were 379 patients waiting over 26 weeks at English national health service trusts. Of these, 282 were patients registered with general practitioners in Wales.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data security measures have been put in place for his Department's databases, including the NHS Care Records Service database; and how much these measures *(a)* have cost and *(b)* are expected to cost. [187013]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data security measures and information assurance touch on almost every aspect of the overall business process of running a database or information technology (IT) project including areas such as risk management, auditing, monitoring, training, IT infrastructure, physical and personnel security, software and other aspects.

Data security measures and information assurance are embedded within the everyday business process of operating a database or IT project and the associated costs are not separate from the overall ongoing running costs of any database or any other IT project or programme. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Mental Health Act 2007

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department plans to provide to *(a)* mental health and *(b)* primary care trusts on the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2007 before it comes into force; and when such guidance will be made available. [193718]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department of Health has commissioned the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) to take forward the project to implement the Mental Health Act 2007. CSIP have established a comprehensive programme of training events and guidance for commissioners, providers, practitioners and users which will be finalised when the code of practice and secondary legislation is finalised.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated in *(a)* Torbay constituency, *(b)* Torbay Primary Care Trust area and *(c)* England per head of population in each year since 2001. [192259]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to constituencies. PCT revenue allocations were first made in 2003-04, prior to this, funding was allocated to health authorities.

The allocations per head of population for Torbay PCT and the England average allocation per head of population for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

		£
Torbay PCT	*Allocation per head*	*Allocation per head England*
2003-04	941	903
2004-05	1,023	986
2005-06	1,207	1,172
2006-07	1,323	1,274
2007-08	1,464	1,388
2008-09	1,525	1,449

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the size of the enhanced services expenditure floor agreed with the British Medical Association's General Practitioner Committee was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; what expenditure on enhanced services was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and what level of expenditure on enhanced services he expects in 2007-08. [192450]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2005-06 the total primary care trust (PCT) enhanced services floor was £676 million. For 2006-07 and 2007-08, it was agreed with the British Medical Association's General Practitioner Committee that enhanced service floors would remain frozen at 2005-06 levels.

The overall level of investment by PCTs in 2005-06 was £655 million and in 2006-07 was £749 million (based on their final audited accounts). Latest forecasts for 2007-08 indicate an overall unaudited spend currently of £775 million. However, final accounts figures will not be available until summer 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS funding top-sliced by strategic health authorities from primary care trusts' recurrent allocations in 2006-07 has been returned to each primary care trust. [192451]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Top slice figures for 2006-07 paid back at end of 2006-07

Strategic health authority	*Organisation code*	*Organisation name*	*Top slice taken in 2006-07 (£000)*	*Top slice paid back (£000)*	*Proportion of top slice paid back (%)*
Q30	5D7	Newcastle Primary Care Trust (PCT)	0	0	0
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	0	0	0
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	859	0	0
Q30	5E1	North Tees Teaching PCT	1,471	0	0
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	939	0	0
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	2,094	0	0
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	1,589	0	0
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	2,893	0	0
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough	1,709	0	0
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	5,060	0	0
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	888	0	0
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	0	0	0
Q38	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	5,500	1,394	25
Q38	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	6,235	1,607	26
Q38	5L1	Southampton City PCT	7,380	1,856	25
Q38	5QC	Hampshire PCT	34,718	8,814	25
Q38	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	12,000	3,042	25
Q38	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	15,863	3,993	25
Q38	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	11,000	2,788	25
Q38	5QG	Berkshire East Teaching PCT	9,890	2,499	25
Q38	5QT	Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	4,629	1,205	26
Q35	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5P1	South East Essex PCT	8,900	0	0
Q35	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5PN	Peterborough PCT	2,200	0	0
Q35	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1,600	0	0
Q35	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	7,200	0	0
Q35	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	7,000	7,000	100
Q35	5PT	Suffolk PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5PV	West Essex PCT	2,500	0	0
Q35	5PW	North East Essex PCT	7,800	7,800	100
Q35	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	0	0	0
Q35	5PY	South West Essex Teaching PCT	18,400	0	0
Q32	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	4,811	0	0
Q32	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	4,362	4,362	100
Q32	5H8	Rotherham PCT	7,545	0	0
Q32	5J6	Calderdale PCT	5,886	0	0
Q32	5JE	Barnsley PCT	7,306	2,000	27

Top slice figures for 2006-07 paid back at end of 2006-07

Strategic health authority	*Organisation code*	*Organisation name*	*Top slice taken in 2006-07 (£000)*	*Top slice paid back (£000)*	*Proportion of top slice paid back (%)*
Q32	5N1	Leeds PCT	21,986	7,000	32
Q32	5N2	Kirklees PCT	11,168	6,300	56
Q32	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	10,076	0	0
Q32	5N4	Sheffield PCT	16,647	4,500	27
Q32	5N5	Doncaster PCT	9,174	0	0
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	20,033	3,000	15
Q32	5NW	East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	7,949	7,949	100
Q32	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	8,536	0	0
Q32	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	15,029	0	0
Q39	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	5,410	3,570	66
Q39	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	3,204	0	0
Q39	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	2,956	0	0
Q39	5K3	Swindon PCT	3,212	0	0
Q39	5M8	North Somerset PCT	4,211	1,611	38
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	13,293	0	0
Q39	5QJ	Bristol Teaching PCT	8,177	0	0
Q39	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	13,100	0	0
Q39	5QL	Somerset PCT	2,050	0	0
Q39	5QM	Dorset PCT	1,570	0	0
Q39	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	1,380	0	0
Q39	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	6,456	0	0
Q39	5QQ	Devon PCT	8,715	8,715	100
Q39	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	1,857	0	0
Q31	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5F5	Salford Teaching PCT	4,452	0	0
Q31	5F7	Stockport PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5,706	0	0
Q31	5HP	Blackpool PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	3,314	0	0
Q31	5J2	Warrington PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5J4	Knowsley PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5J5	Oldham PCT	3,247	0	0
Q31	5JX	Bury PCT	2,480	0	0
Q31	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	4,257	0	0
Q31	5NE	Cumbria PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	838	0	0
Q31	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	11,617	0	0
Q31	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NJ	Sefton PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NK	Wirral PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NL	Liverpool PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NN	West Cheshire PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	3,081	0	0
Q31	5NR	Trafford PCT	0	0	0
Q31	5NT	Manchester PCT	5,771	5,771	100
Q33	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	2,000	0	0
Q33	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	654	654	100
Q33	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	2,522	2,522	100
Q33	5N7	Derby City PCT	1,508	1,508	100
Q33	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	3,570	0	0
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Q33	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	3,317	3,317	100
Q33	5PC	Leicester City Teaching PCT	1,935	1,935	100
Q33	5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	3,445	3,445	100
Q36	5A4	Havering PCT	9,352	2,059	22
Q36	5A5	Kingston PCT	5,924	-32	-1
Q36	5A7	Bromley PCT	10,952	-10	0
Q36	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	11,235	2,339	21
Q36	5A9	Barnet PCT	12,816	2,882	22
Q36	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	9,045	2,059	23
Q36	5C1	Enfield PCT	10,294	2,365	23

Top slice figures for 2006-07 paid back at end of 2006-07

Strategic health authority	*Organisation code*	*Organisation name*	*Top slice taken in 2006-07 (£000)*	*Top slice paid back (£000)*	*Proportion of top slice paid back (%)*
Q36	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	13,045	22	0
Q36	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	14,840	39	0
Q36	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	12,268	1	0
Q36	5C5	Newham PCT	13,876	2,781	20
Q36	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	10,176	34	0
Q36	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,838	-13	0
Q36	5HX	Ealing PCT	13,042	-27	0
Q36	5HY	Hounslow PCT	8,775	1,010	12
Q36	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	12,015	2,764	23
Q36	5K6	Harrow PCT	7,489	1,693	23
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	11,438	34	0
Q36	5K8	Islington PCT	9,932	1,012	10
Q36	5K9	Croydon PCT	12,462	2,845	23
Q36	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	8,034	-50	-1
Q36	5LC	Westminster PCT	10,783	0	0
Q36	5LD	Lambeth PCT	13,755	36	0
Q36	5LE	Southwark PCT	11,819	2,727	23
Q36	5LF	Lewisham PCT	11,719	2,709	23
Q36	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	11,376	-35	0
Q36	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	6,629	1,536	23
Q36	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	13,553	3,126	23
Q36	5NA	Redbridge PCT	9,114	41	0
Q36	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	9,398	2,122	23
Q36	TAK	Bexley PCT	7,552	1,703	23
Q37	5L3	Medway Teaching PCT	9,272	4,273	46
Q37	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	10,491	4,913	47
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	37,037	28,716	78
Q37	5P6	West Sussex Teaching PCT	28,574	14,931	52
Q37	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	12,639	6,996	55
Q37	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	7,446	2,693	36
Q37	5P9	West Kent PCT	22,431	14,472	65
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	27,624	12,364	45
Q34	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	14,407	8,427	58
Q34	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	8,091	3,500	43
Q34	5PE	Dudley PCT	11,696	3,426	29
Q34	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	11,918	3,750	31
Q34	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	6,051	1,861	31
Q34	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	9,461	5,581	59
Q34	5PF	Sandwell PCT	12,622	3,833	30
Q34	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	8,409	2,880	34
Q34	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	6,094	2,064	34
Q34	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	13,573	4,280	32
Q34	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	17,612	10,617	60
Q34	5PJ	Stoke On Trent Teaching PCT	13,162	13,162	100
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	5,337	1,700	32
Q34	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	9,931	3,080	31
Q34	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	10,941	4,821	44
Q34	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	9,479	2,960	31
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	18,248	5,608	31
		Total	1,144,2321	318,836	28

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to each primary care trust (PCT) in England in the latest financial year for which figures are available; and what the population in each PCT area is. [194178]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The following table shows the revenue allocations that were announced for primary care trusts (PCTs) in December 2007 for the next financial year 2008-09, and their population projections for that year.

	2008-09 revenue allocation (£ million)	*Mid-2008 population*[1]
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	753.0	501,080
Brent Teaching PCT	464.9	281,821
Brighton and Hove City PCT	402.8	257,913

	2008-09 revenue allocation (£ million)	Mid-2008 population[1]
Bristol PCT	602.4	422,839
Bromley PCT	425.7	302,946
Buckinghamshire PCT	604.8	497,186
Bury PCT	261.4	181,664
Calderdale PCT	290.4	199,789
Cambridgeshire PCT	723.3	588,116
Camden PCT	420.6	242,151
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	602.3	449,459
Central Lancashire PCT	640.7	444,470
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	439.4	222,879
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	749.7	537,532
County Durham PCT	827.0	502,596
Coventry Teaching PCT	495.1	319,891
Croydon PCT	483.7	334,850
Cumbria PCT	726.8	505,733
Darlington PCT	155.6	97,830
Derby City PCT	380.8	270,657
Derbyshire County PCT	973.3	697,633
Devon PCT	1,009.2	740,489
Doncaster PCT	463.1	295,479
Dorset PCT	540.9	389,605
Dudley PCT	429.3	301,599
Ealing PCT	507.4	318,091
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	704.2	552,279
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	583.6	375,408
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	401.0	314,127
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	483.5	333,093
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,068.7	734,293
Enfield PCT	405.2	268,749
Gateshead PCT	330.4	192,566
Gloucestershire PCT	771.1	589,151
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	337.2	225,909
Greenwich Teaching PCT	392.7	235,868
Halton and St Helens PCT	500.1	304,009
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	302.0	173,880
Hampshire PCT	1,615.6	1,253,955
Haringey Teaching PCT	395.7	234,447
Harrow PCT	291.3	199,152
Hartlepool PCT	152.1	92,009
Hastings and Rother PCT	284.9	173,785
Havering PCT	349.1	235,778
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	479.1	284,377
Herefordshire PCT	238.8	178,672
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	333.6	208,163
Hillingdon PCT	351.4	242,256
Hounslow PCT	340.3	217,691
Hull Teaching PCT	423.4	277,734
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	216.2	141,898
Islington PCT	383.8	185,725
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	313.9	207,584
Kingston PCT	231.2	171,852
Kirklees PCT	556.3	393,640
Knowsley PCT	283.4	150,268
Lambeth PCT	532.7	286,754
Leeds PCT	1,088.8	754,092
Leicester City PCT	448.2	301,437
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	770.4	647,221
Lewisham PCT	453.1	251,825
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	973.0	722,640
Liverpool PCT	847.2	441,958
Luton PCT	261.2	182,287
Manchester PCT	860.0	488,883
Medway PCT	359.3	270,899
Mid Essex PCT	427.9	360,510
Middlesbrough PCT	240.8	140,773

	2008-09 revenue allocation (£ million)	Mid-2008 population[1]
Milton Keynes PCT	293.1	234,198
Newcastle PCT	440.2	255,174
Newham PCT	478.8	261,963
Norfolk PCT	983.4	737,991
North East Essex PCT	446.0	321,357
North East Lincolnshire PCT	241.6	165,087
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	481.3	335,158
North Lincolnshire PCT	220.4	161,061
North Somerset PCT	265.2	202,221
North Staffordshire PCT	293.2	204,995
North Tees PCT	267.6	190,453
North Tyneside PCT	314.7	204,188
North Yorkshire and York PCT	999.1	787,551
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	861.9	660,838
Northumberland Care Trust	458.3	313,726
Nottingham City PCT	454.5	301,078
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	885.2	645,882
Oldham PCT	350.8	222,942
Oxfordshire PCT	767.2	628,341
Peterborough PCT	238.4	153,645
Plymouth Teaching PCT	367.5	252,705
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	267.8	203,908
Redbridge PCT	334.8	240,481
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	217.4	132,993
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	256.0	176,660
Rotherham PCT	380.7	245,759
Salford PCT	395.1	220,423
Sandwell PCT	487.2	301,473
Sefton PCT	447.6	273,050
Sheffield PCT	826.6	525,337
Shropshire County PCT	383.2	291,355
Solihull Care Trust	273.5	206,734
Somerset PCT	698.0	524,329
South Birmingham PCT	538.7	348,866
South East Essex PCT	465.9	330,648
South Gloucestershire PCT	290.2	246,405
South Staffordshire PCT	755.3	588,584
South Tyneside PCT	257.1	149,167
South West Essex PCT	554.3	398,291
Southampton City PCT	340.9	243,936
Southwark PCT	457.4	250,485
Stockport PCT	400.1	282,200
Stoke On Trent PCT	414.2	255,983
Suffolk PCT	766.4	601,520
Sunderland Teaching PCT	473.5	271,538
Surrey PCT	1,408.2	1,070,315
Sutton and Merton PCT	524.4	376,023
Swindon PCT	257.3	189,870
Tameside and Glossop PCT	355.7	226,289
Telford and Wrekin PCT	220.8	165,691
Torbay Care Trust	218.7	143,399
Tower Hamlets PCT	417.1	219,183
Trafford PCT	315.9	210,651
Wakefield District PCT	515.9	337,176
Walsall Teaching PCT	394.9	248,798
Waltham Forest PCT	366.3	224,963
Wandsworth PCT	443.0	280,537
Warrington PCT	273.2	192,474
Warwickshire PCT	687.8	520,554
West Essex PCT	359.0	260,710
West Hertfordshire PCT	716.8	541,514
West Kent PCT	854.6	659,008
West Sussex PCT	1,090.5	778,862
Western Cheshire PCT	350.3	240,143
Westminster PCT	418.6	257,199

	2008-09 revenue allocation (£ million)	Mid-2008 population[1]
Wiltshire PCT	569.1	456,584
Wirral PCT	528.0	314,206
Wolverhampton City PCT	380.4	236,841
Worcestershire PCT	716.4	546,435
England	74,197.5	51,220,531

[1] General practitioner practice lists constrained to 2004 based Office for National Statistics subnational population projections for 2008.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget allocations were made to each primary care trust in England in respect of each main category condition and disease for the last three years for which figures are available. [194180]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) are undertaken on the basis of a weighted capitation formula to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. Separate allocations are not made for each disease category.

Annual data estimating actual primary care trust level expenditure by disease are collected in the form of programme budgeting returns. Tables showing PCT expenditure by programme budgeting category for the 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Geographical Information Systems

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use the NHS is making of geographical information systems to improve health care treatment in the UK. [191341]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for individual national health service trusts to decide whether they wish to use geographical information systems to support the planning and delivery of health care services.

NHS: Surgery

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* operations and *(b)* diagnostic tests were carried out by the NHS in each year since 1994-95; and if he will make a statement. [192987]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of finished consultant episodes where a procedure (and intervention in 2006-07) was in a main or secondary field for years 1994-95 to 2006-07 and the total activity for the 15 key diagnostic tests for the calendar year 2007 is shown in table 1. Information on diagnostic tests in the format requested is not available. Information on the 15 key diagnostic tests for 2007 is shown in table 2.

Table 1: National health service hospitals, England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Number of episodes
1994-95	5,468,249
1995-96	5,834,659
1996-97	5,925,915
1997-98	5,910,999
1998-99	6,471,037
1999-2000	6,533,311
2000-01	6,510,808
2001-02	6,436,388
2002-03	6,614,131
2003-04	6,773,546
2004-05	6,848,793
2005-06	7,216,643
2006-07	7,889,682

Table 1: National health service hospitals, England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 2: Total activity for each of the 15 key diagnostic tests in 2007

Diagnostic test	Total activity
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	1,289,708
Computer Tomography	2,408,295
Non-obstetric Ultrasound	4,039,423
Barium Enema	161,153
DEXA Scan	234,218
Audiology	1,113,947
Cardiology, echocardiography	799,055
Cardiology, electrophysiology	13,385
Neurophysiology	167,727
Respiratory physiology	65,899
Urodynamics, pressures and flows	85,835
Colonoscopy	258,880
Flexi sigmoidososcopy	176,167
Cystoscopy	288,209
Gasttroscopy	460,342
Total 15 tests	11,562,243

North Lancashire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was available to North Lancashire Primary Care Trust to improve GP services in 2007-08; [194027]

(2) what improvements are being considered by North Lancashire Primary Care Trust to GP services in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194461]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The requested information is not held centrally. The information for improvements to general practitioner (GP) services is not available at constituency level, and primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations are not ring-fenced.

However, North Lancashire PCT will be receiving additional investment in 2008-09 from the £250 million access fund, announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 10 October 2007, to procure two new GP practices and one GP-led health centre.

The North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the health centre will provide a greater range of services in primary care, improve access to primary care (12 hours per day seven days per week) and target services to be most accessible to those most in need. The additional GP practices will also offer additional hours and full GP services, and could also offer additional services.

The North West SHA is managing an assurance process that oversees the procurement and delivery process for the equitable access plans for North Lancashire PCT.

Out-Patients: Waiting Lists

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients had been waiting over 13 weeks for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment on 31 January. [194598]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the end of January 2008, there were 135 patients waiting 13 weeks or over for a first consultant-led out-patient appointment following general practitioner referral.

Figures on inpatient and outpatient waiting times are routinely published on a monthly basis, a full breakdown is available on the Department's website. Figures for 31 January 2008 were published on 29 February, and are available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/2007/month/index.html

Palliative Care: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Castle Point. [193052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South East Essex PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy, published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the Framework is available in the Library.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made on implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on supportive and palliative care in NHS services in Castle Point. [193053]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South East Essex PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the East of England SHA.

Patients

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were receiving inpatient treatment on 31 January *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [194596]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures are shown in the following table.

In-patient waiting lists—January 2005 to January 2008, England

As at 31 January each year	*Provider based*	*Commissioner based*
2005	861,971	849,390
2006	791,898	780,987
2007	773,812	754,992
2008	586,971	575,684

Figures on in-patient and out-patient waiting times are routinely published on a monthly basis, a full breakdown is available on the Department's website. Figures for 31 January 2008 were published on 29 February, and are available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/2007/month/index.html

Pharmacy: Opening Hours

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to suspend section 13 of the 2005 regulations governing the criteria for granting applications for pharmacies opening for 100 hours a week until after the publication of the results of the review of pharmacy services. [193717]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to do so. We will set out our intentions for the future provision of pharmacy services in the forthcoming Pharmacy White Paper.

Surgery

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of separating emergency surgery from elective surgery; and what the evidential basis is for this assessment. [192732]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is generally recognised that there are benefits from separating emergency surgery from elective surgery which can include fewer cancellations, more efficient use of theatres and the ability to plan operations. In addition, since pressure in acute hospital beds and wards is relieved, they can also help to speed up treatment for patients admitted to emergency care.

Torbay Hospital: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* in-patient, *(b)* day cases and *(c)* out-patient appointments in Torbay hospital in each year since 1992. [192265]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held in the format requested. Information is held for national health service hospital trusts. Therefore, information has been provided in the following table for south Devon healthcare NHS foundation trust which includes Torbay district general hospital.

Average (median) waiting times at south Devon healthcare NHS foundation trust

	Ordinary admission	*Day case admission*	*Out-patients*
1991-92	17.5	10.8	—
1992-93	17.1	10.1	—
1993-94	14.3	10.3	7.4
1994-95	11.3	10.4	8.4
1995-96	11.0	9.6	7.5
1996-97	11.7	9.8	7.7
1997-98	12.2	10.0	8.3
1998-99	13.0	9.1	9.7
1999-2000	15.0	8.9	9.2
2000-01	17.1	9.3	8.8
2001-02	16.3	11.5	7.0
2002-03	15.4	10.3	7.6
2003-04	13.0	9.5	6.6
2004-05	10.3	8.3	6.2
2005-06	9.9	7.9	5.6
2006-07	6.6	6.1	4.8
2007-08	6.2	4.1	4.5

Note:

No out-patient data was collected prior to 1993-94

Source:

Department of Health Forms KH07 and QM08

West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust: Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were at West Herts NHS Acute Trust *(a)* in each specialty and *(b)* in total in each year since 1996-97. [193399]

Mr. Bradshaw: Until 2000, the current West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust was divided into two trusts: St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust and Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust. The number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) in each speciality and in total at the two trusts from 1996-2000 and in West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust in 2000-07 are set out in the following tables. The latest year for which information is available is 2007.

Number of FCEs in each speciality and in total at St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust and Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust 1996-2000

	1996-97			*1997-98*		
Specialty	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*
Not known	7	184	191	—	344	344
General Surgery	4,557	5,829	10,386	4,215	5,167	9,382
Urology	1,460	2,965	4,425	1,506	2,810	4,316
Trauma and Orthopaedics	3,077	4,136	7,213	2,968	3,219	6,187
Ear, Nose and Throat	1,136	—	1,136	1,171	—	1,171
Ophthalmology	118	1,240	1,358	116	760	876
Oral Surgery	149	3,160	3,309	53	2,904	2,957
Orthodontics	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plastic Surgery	237	5,764	6,001	208	6,649	6,857
Accident and Emergency	268	—	268	376	—	376
Anaesthetics	173	300	473	102	343	445
General Medicine	727	9,729	10,456	31	9,922	9,953
Gastroenterology	2,777	929	3,706	3,743	1,144	4,887
Endocrinology	833	—	833	1,157	—	1,157
Haematology (Clinical)	—	691	691	—	1,044	1,044
Palliative Medicine	—	387	387	—	449	449
Cardiology	1,153	—	1,153	1,406	—	1,406
Dermatology	856	73	929	882	76	958
Thoracic Medicine	1,138	—	1,138	1,222	•	1,222
Nephrology	—	—	—	•	—	—
Medical Oncology	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neurology	8	10	18	•	•	—
Rheumatology	50	357	407	28	404	432
Paediatrics	5,726	6,367	12,093	5,537	7,272	12,809
Geriatric Medicine	3,637	2,152	5,789	4,268	2,351	6,619
Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed	5,192	3,822	9,014	5,352	4,384	9,736
Gynaecology	2,943	2,992	5,935	2,374	2,669	5,043
Radiotherapy	362	3,903	4,265	882	4,761	5,643

Number of FCEs in each speciality and in total at St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust and Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust 1996-2000

	1996-97			1997-98		
Specialty	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*
Haematology	1,077	—	1,077	1,159	—	1,159
Total	37,661	54,990	92,651	38,756	56,678	95,434

	1998-99			1999-2000		
Specialty	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*	*St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust*	*Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust*	*Total*
Not known	—	268	268	•	296	296
General Surgery	3,674	5,172	8,846	4,341	4,607	8,948
Urology	1,516	2,526	4,042	2,119	2,073	4,192
Trauma and Orthopaedics	2,886	3,268	6,154	3,360	3,133	6,493
Ear, Nose and Throat	1,082	—	1,082	1,249	—	1,249
Ophthalmology	16	861	877	•	1,176	1,176
Oral Surgery	32	2,715	2,747	38	2,387	2,425
Orthodontics	•	—	0	—	—	—
Plastic Surgery	151	5,595	5,746	143	5,985	6,128
Accident and Emergency	341	—	341	318	—	318
Anaesthetics	116	368	484	122	209	331
General Medicine	•	10,612	10,612	—	9,703	9,703
Gastroenterology	3,721	918	4,639	4,050	146	4,196
Endocrinology	1,349	—	1,349	1,466	—	1,466
Haematology (Clinical)	—	690	690	—	456	456
Palliative Medicine	—	353	353	—	395	395
Cardiology	1,416	—	1,416	1,473	—	1,473
Dermatology	713	33	746	846	42	888
Thoracic Medicine	1,067	9	1,076	1,403	—	1,403
Nephrology	—	—	0	•	—	—
Medical Oncology	—	—	0	—	43	43
Neurology	23	22	45	34	10	44
Rheumatology	33	170	203	45	—	45
Paediatrics	4,976	6,668	11,644	5,106	3,217	8,323
Geriatric Medicine	4,461	1,910	6,371	4,409	1,749	6,158
Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed	5,156	3,566	8,722	5,503	3,640	9,143
Gynaecology	1,946	2,460	4,406	2,260	2,752	5,012
Radiotherapy	956	5,021	5,977	985	4,475	5,460
Haematology	770	—	770	1,223	—	1,223
Total	36,401	53,205	89,606	40,496	46,494	86,990

Number of FCEs in each speciality and in total at West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust 2000-07

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Not known	1,243	97	16	—	•	—	•
General Surgery	9,023	8,838	9,195	9,668	9,900	9,697	9,829
Urology	4,180	4,264	4,481	4,658	4,532	4,502	4,109
Trauma and Orthopaedics	6,765	7,432	7,445	7,260	7,246	7,390	7,156
Ear, Nose and Throat	1,229	1,246	918	1,064	1,090	1,236	1,264
Ophthalmology	1,692	1,274	1,173	1,977	1,841	2,074	2,037
Oral Surgery	962	521	627	800	706	613	602
Restorative Dentistry	—	—	•	—	—	—	—
Orthodontics	•	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plastic Surgery[1]	6,624	6,679	7,178	7,912	7,712	8,018	3,899
Cardiothoracic Surgery	38	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accident and Emergency	237	299	394	541	3,334	4,800	4,674
Anaesthetics	467	464	448	554	442	506	511
Pain Management	—	—	—	•	—	—	—
General Medicine	8,547	9,916	9,469	8,633	8,914	9,313	9,207
Gastroenterology	5,052	5,498	5,205	5,631	5,767	5,872	6,946
Endocrinology	1,007	676	389	282	200	129	95
Clinical Haematology	892	2,071	2,761	2,884	2,583	1,928	2,228
Rehabilitation	134	—	•	—	—	—	—
Palliative Medicine	343	400	355	351	331	—	—
Cardiology	1,706	1,490	1,416	2,073	3,308	3,691	3,889

Number of FCEs in each speciality and in total at West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust 2000-07

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Dermatology	911	850	675	564	551	252	27
Thoracic Medicine	1,461	1,324	1,305	1,362	1,225	1,714	1,727
Genito-urinary Medicine	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Nephrology	*	—	*	16	46	20	*
Medical Oncology	538	491	505	707	748	292	69
Neurology	35	23	20	15	17	17	31
Rheumatology	89	183	172	393	502	816	852
Paediatrics[2]	2,405	—	4,973	5,293	4,998	5,430	7,112
Geriatric Medicine	4,995	4,751	5,930	6,819	7,501	7,313	6,197
Obstetrics	6,325	8,057	7,643	8,385	8,794	8,619	8,613
Gynaecology	5,495	5,085	4,699	4,616	4,487	4,379	4,547
Midwife Episode	—	—	—	—	—	—	148
Learning Disability	—	—	*	*	*	—	—
Psychotherapy	—	—	—	*	—	—	—
Clinical Oncology	5,202	5,138	4,606	4,688	4,768	820	530
Haematology	1,149	181	—	—	—	—	—
Immunopathology	15	73	107	96	112	138	127
Total	78,765	77,321	82,118	87,245	91,662	89,579	86,439

"—" No data retrieved under the main speciality and/or data year.

"* " To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk.

[1] In October 2006, the management of the speciality 'Plastic Surgery' transferred from the West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust to the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust. This is a likely explanation for the drop in count of FCEs in 2006-07 compared to the data received in previous years.

[2] For 2001-02 no data were received from the trust for the speciality 'Paediatrics'. This has been investigated with the trust but no conclusive cause has been found.

Notes:

1. Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

2. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

3. FCE

A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

4. Specialty

Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information. Trusts may change the way they manage speciality codes through time. The number of specialities can change over time depending on the patients being treated and the consultants employed by a trust in a particular year.

5. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ies the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191120]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such objections have been lodged.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Government Bills: Public Participation

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House which Government Bills introduced to the House in Session 2007-08 have undergone pre-legislative scrutiny in which the public was able to participate electronically. [193693]

Helen Goodman: Four Bills introduced so far in the current session were previously published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny: the Climate Change Bill, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, the Local Transport Bill and the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill.

Parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny was carried out by select committees in respect of three draft bills. The Climate Change Bill and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (then called the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill) were both considered by Joint Committees of both Houses, while the Local Transport Bill was considered by the Transport Select Committee. The Climate Change Bill was also examined by the Efra and Environmental Audit select committees. All these committees provided facilities for outside bodies and individuals to submit evidence electronically. In addition, on-line forums on aspects of the proposed Bills were conducted by the Joint Committees on the Climate Change Bill and the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill. It is the responsibility of individual committees as to how they involve and take evidence from the public.

In all cases the public consultation by departments on the draft bills included opportunity for the public and interested bodies to submit views electronically. In respect of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill, an online discussion space was also provided on the Cabinet Office website.

TRANSPORT

Birmingham New Street Station

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of departmental staff worked on the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street in each year since 2000. [191689]

Mr. Tom Harris: The numbers of departmental staff who have been involved in the appraisal of proposals for Birmingham New Street as part of their wider job duties include the following: 14 in 2005-06; 24 in 2006-07; and 28 in 2007-08.

Prior to 2005, this was a matter for the Strategic Rail Authority.

Birminghman New Street Station: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* legal advice, *(b)* banking and financial consultants and *(c)* other consultants related to the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street in each year since 2000. [191688]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport spent the following sums on external advisers: £225,000 in 2005-06; £47,000 in 2006-07; and £5,000 in 2007-08. Prior to 2005, this was a matter for the Strategic Rail Authority.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2753W, on concessions: mentally ill, if she will make it her policy to hold a consultation on broadening the scope of the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus fares. [193732]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Transport Act 2000 (or for those resident in London, the Greater London Authority Act 1999) make provision for concessionary travel to a wide range of disabled people. Categories of disability were drawn up following representation from local government and support from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. The people eligible are as follows:

Any person who:

is blind or partially sighted;

is profoundly or severely deaf;

is without speech;

has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk;

does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms;

has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning;

would, if he/she applied for a grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 does not change the criteria for those eligible for a concessionary pass. The Act retains the discretion of travel concession authorities to offer their residents more than the statutory minimum concession. Any such enhancements are subject to their assessment of local needs and their overall financial priorities.

The Secretary of State issued guidance to local authorities which sets out the statutory minimum requirement which they must observe to satisfy the law, and to which they must have regard in reaching a decision on eligibility.

We have no plans at present to consult on changes to the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus travel to include other groups of people, such as those with mental health illnesses. Our current focus is on the successful implementation of the new all-England off-peak bus travel concession from April this year.

Local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions over and above the statutory minimum at their own expense. This can include offering concessionary travel to groups of people other than those currently defined in legislation.

Initial analysis suggests that the estimated annual cost of extending the statutory concession to people with a mental impairment would be at least £49 million.

Bus Services: Pensioners

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated to subsidise national bus travel for pensioners in each of the next three years. [193796]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In England the Government are providing the following through a special grant just to cover the additional cost of the statutory minimum England-wide bus concession from 1 April:

	£ million
2008-09	£212
2009-10	£217
2010-11	£223

Funding for the existing statutory concession is provided through revenue support grant. As such it is not possible to precisely determine the total figure for this element for each of the next three years.

In addition, the Government paid a grant of over £31 million in total to travel concession authorities (TCAs) in England outside London in this financial year (2007-08) to cover the cost of issuing concessionary travel passes. The passes grant to each TCA is based on an allowance of £4 for each pass currently in circulation, uplifted by 20 per cent. to recognise that the new concession is likely to be more attractive than the existing one.

Concessions: Schools

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider making it her policy to increase the age limit of half-fare school bus passes from aged 15 to aged 18 years if the participation age in education and training is raised to 18 years. [193293]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no current plans to increase the age limit of half-fare school bus passes from aged 15 to aged 18.

Cycling

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycle lanes and tracks there are in England. [191691]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how miles of cycle lanes and tracks are linked to the National Cycle Network. [191693]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what guidance her Department has given to local authorities and Sustrans on the classification of a road as a traffic-free route on the National Cycle Network; [191717]

(2) what guidance her Department has given to local authorities and Sustrans on the classification of on-road routes on the National Cycle Network. [191718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not provided any guidance to either local authorities or Sustrans on the classification of roads for the National Cycle Network. This is a matter for local highway authorities.

The National Cycle Network was developed by Sustrans with the help of a £43.5 million Millennium Commission Lottery Grant. Sustrans worked with a number of partners, in particular local authorities to develop the network which linked pre-existing routes to new routes to create a UK-wide network.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she intends to publish the results of her Department's consultation on cycling infrastructure design. [191706]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department received 91 responses to the Cycling Infrastructure Design (CID) consultation, which ended on 5 November 2007. All the responses are currently being analysed and we will be revising the guidance in the light of the comments received. The Department intends to publish a report on the consultation in the next few months together with the final CID guidance.

Cycling: Children

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children have taken part in Cycling England's Bikeability training scheme since 2006. [191694]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 2005-06 the Department has provided funding to enable around 46,000 children to be trained to the Bikeability standard. Estimates are that local authorities fund some form of cycle training for 200,000 children but we do not hold information centrally on the number of children who have trained to Bikeability standard rather than other local authority run schemes.

In January the Secretary of State for Transport announced a six fold increase in the cycling budget to £140 million for Cycling England to invest in initiatives to encourage cycling, including enabling an extra 500,000 children to have Bikeability training by 2012.

Cycling England: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Cycling England spent on commissioning economic research into the benefits of cycling from SQW consultants. [191695]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cycling England spent £68,915 on commissioning the economic research 'Valuing the Benefits of Cycling' from consultants SQW.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on departmental data protection, what cost audits were conducted by third party partners in each of the last 10 years. [191751]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is assumed that this question refers to the cost of audits of departmental data protection conducted by third party partners in each of the last 10 years. Records of audits performed by the Department's internal audit functions, including those involving third party partners and their associated costs, are not maintained centrally but are kept locally by each of those functions. Furthermore, because of the decentralised nature of management responsibility within the Department and its agencies, specific record-keeping arrangements for other similar audits commissioned by line management vary between the Department and individual agencies and are not maintained centrally. Consequently, the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has a single official with overall responsibility for data security. [193944]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Within the Department for Transport, including its seven executive agencies and shared service centre, the overall responsibility for data security rests with the Permanent Secretary, supported by the Department's senior information risk owner, who is also a board member, and the departmental security officer.

The roles and responsibilities relating to data security matters across all Departments will be subject to the recommendations from the current Cabinet Office review of data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by her Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188222]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Department for Transport including its agencies has contracted with US registered service providers to manage (aspects of) storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

(b) The Department, including its agencies has contracted with UK subsidiaries of US registered service providers to manage (aspects of) storage, processing or analysis of personal information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European Economic Area[1] by UK data controllers. Contracts are based on UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

[1] The 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Great Western Trains: Passengers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people have used First Great Western services in each year since their franchise began on 1 April 2006; [191744]

(2) how many people, on average, use First Great Western services each weekday. [191745]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Rail industry statistics are managed by the Office of Rail Regulation and the hon. Member should consult its website:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Heathrow Airport: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the likely benefits identified in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document relate to expected profits for *(a)* BA, *(b)* other airlines and *(c)* BAA. [194565]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The breakdown of the monetised benefits from each option in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document' is given in table 4.3 (p79) of 'UK Air Passenger and Demand Forecasts report (November 2007)', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The following table reproduces the figures for the three consultation document options. The 'producers' row of this table reports the change in airport operator's profits that could result from additional capacity at Heathrow.

'Adding Capacity at Heathrow' consultation: breakdown of transport user benefits by option, NPV, 2006 prices[1]

£ billion

Option	*One*	*Two*	*Three*
Generated users	9	9	9
Existing users	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Freight users	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Producers	5	5	5
Government	3	3	3
Carbon	-5	-5	-5
Noise	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Delay reductions:			
Users	[3]—	1	2
Carbon	[3]—	[2]—	[2]—
Total	12	13	14

[1] Figures are rounded to zero decimal places

[2] Means a non-zero impact is estimated, but the result rounds to nought at zero decimal places

[3] Means no impact has been estimated

The current approach to estimating 'producer benefits' does not take into account benefits to airlines of additional capacity over and above the welfare benefits to their passengers. However, the 'Delay reductions' row includes benefits of reduced delay costs to airlines due to additional capacity.

Hope Valley Railway Line: Freight

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the capacity of the Hope Valley railway line to carry freight *(a)* now and *(b)* in the future. [194583]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail has assessed the capacity of the Hope Valley railway line in its Freight Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), published in 2007. The strategy set out a detailed analysis of freight issues, requirements and proposals for accommodating growth. The Freight RUS identified, over the next 10 years, a possible need for extra capacity on the Hope Valley route between Sheffield and Manchester arising from a forecast growth in aggregate and construction materials originating in this area.

Network Rail's Yorkshire and Humber RUS, which is being worked on at present, is also considering capacity needs on this and the two other rail routes across the Pennines.

Intercity Express: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2758W, on intercity express: consultants, how much of the £7.9 million spent by her Department on the project was incurred directly as a result of the Department taking the lead in developing the specification. [194570]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The majority of these costs arise directly as a result of the Department leading the specification and procurement of the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) since 2005, and in working closely with industry to make sure that the Intercity Express Programme offers best value for money and benefits to passengers and taxpayers when compared to other options.

M25

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department will be required to pay the bid costs for consortia which have bid for the £5 billion M25 contract if her Department decides not to continue with the M25 widening projects. [181874]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is no contractual obligation to pay the bid costs for consortia that have bid for the M25 contract.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to make an announcement on remedial capital works in respect of junction 30 of the M25 motorway; and if she will make a statement. [184832]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is liaising with the promoter of the London Gateway Port and Business Park Development (Shell haven) on proposed measures at M25 Junction 30 to mitigate traffic generated by the development proposal. The timing of delivery of these measures is linked to a trigger of development either from the proposed port and/or business park.

Additionally the Highways Agency is currently working with stakeholders and other partners in the Thames Gateway South Essex region to investigate solutions for possible improvements to relieving congestion affecting strategic traffic movements at junctions 30/31 and along the A13 trunk road. By autumn 2008 we aim to have identified options that we will take forward in preparation for further consultation in 2009.

Any preferred solution identified will complement those which are being proposed by the promoter of the London Gateway Port and Business Park Development and will also need to complement other transport measures such as enhanced public transport to help alleviate congestion at the junctions.

M54: M6 Toll

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the timetable for the construction of the direct link from the M54 to the M6 Toll. [193802]

Mr. Tom Harris: The timetable for the delivery of this improvement and possible scheme options are currently under review. We will make an announcement on the way forward in due course.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 199W, on motor vehicles: excise duties, if she will provide the relevant data for each local authority in England. [191710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Operation Stack

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in implementing a quick change moveable barrier solution for phase 1 of Operation Stack on the M20; and if she will make a statement. [193327]

Mr. Tom Harris: The concrete barrier and barrier transfer machine are currently being procured, and will be available by the end of March 2008. The design for the civil engineering work to enable the quick movable barrier to operate on the M20 is complete, and a contractor has been appointed for construction which will take about 11 weeks.

As the start of the civil engineering work is dependent upon the completion of statutory environmental procedures, an accurate start date for the works cannot yet be confirmed. However, the estimated completion date is summer this year.

Public Transport: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to reduce antisocial behaviour on public transport deferred from 13 March 2008. [194132]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Government, transport industry, local authorities and others are investing in and undertaking wide-ranging initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour committed on public transport. These include staffing initiatives, staff training, awareness raising in schools, and CCTV surveillance. There is also a range of legal measures available to transport operators to deal with antisocial behaviour.

Railway Stations

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railways stations have been upgraded in each region in each of the last 10 years; what the cost to the public purse was of such upgrades; and if she will make a statement. [193743]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railway Stations: Access

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of train stations without adequate disabled access. [193609]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information about facilities at the 2,500 individual stations in Great Britain.

However, a study for the Strategic Rail Authority in 2005 identified that approximately 50 per cent. of stations do not provide step-free access, while 61 per cent. would benefit from new or improved customer information systems.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for each *(a)* line and *(b)* station on the rail network which has reopened since 1980, what the (i) projected annual passenger numbers were prior to reopening and (ii) passenger numbers were (A) in the first year after reopening (B) five years after reopening and (C) 10 years after reopening. [194564]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: This information is not held by the Department for Transport.

Railways: Crime

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many drink-related crimes were recorded as occurring on trains in the national rail system in each of the last 10 years, broken down by area; [191726]

(2) how many crimes were recorded which involved *(a)* an assault and *(b)* a threatened assault by a passenger on a staff member on trains in the national rail system in each of the last 10 years, broken down by British Transport Police area; [191727]

(3) how many British Transport Police officers have reported being physically assaulted in each of the last 10 years, broken down by British Transport Police area; [191728]

(4) what the average response time was for British Transport Police officers to attend railway stations from which a 999 call had been made in each of the last 10 years; [191729]

(5) how many times the possession of a firearm was recorded as a crime by the British Transport Police in each of the last 10 years, broken down by British Transport Police area; [191730]

(6) how many times the possession of a knife was recorded as a crime by the British Transport Police in each of the last 10 years, broken down by area; [191731]

(7) how many British Transport Police officers there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by British Transport Police area. [191732]

Mr. Tom Harris: None of this information is held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Railways: Fares

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what figures she holds on average regulated train fares. [191755]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) maintains a register of all fares and publishes this as part of National Rail Trends. This publication is available from the ORR website:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what figures she holds on the average cost of commuter train fares into London for every year since 1997. [191756]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) maintains a register of all fares and publishes this as part of National Rail Trends. It includes a category for Standard class regulated fares for London and South East operators—the nearest proxy for commuter fares to London. This publication is available from the ORR website:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Railways: Kent

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many daily train paths will be available to freight traffic on the high-speed line through Kent once high-speed domestic services have begun. [192963]

Mr. Tom Harris: There will be spare paths available on High Speed 1 when the high-speed domestic services commence next year. The precise number of paths available to freight and further passenger services will become clearer when the timetable for the high-speed domestic services is finalised. To run their services, open-access freight operators will have to apply to Network Rail (CTRL) Limited which is acting as the independent allocation and charging body for High Speed 1.

Railways: Passengers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the passenger in excess of capacity figure was for each eligible recorded service in each year between 1997 and 2007, broken down by train operating company. [191720]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office for Rail Regulation (ORR) within its "National Rail Trends Yearbook" and is available on the ORR website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

The latest published data relates to passenger counts carried out by train operators in autumn 2006.

Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been conducted by the Chief Scientific Adviser's office or in partnership with the Chief Scientific Adviser's office in the last 12 months on *(a)* active traffic management technology, *(b)* video-based traffic monitoring and number plate recognition technology, *(c)* fibre optic vehicle sensing and *(d)* traffic control centre management. [191719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Work on these topics has been taken forward through the relevant units in DFT(c) and the Highways Agency. The Chief Scientific Adviser's office has not undertaken specific work but, through the Chief Scientific Adviser, has taken part in discussions with DFT colleagues on several of the issues.

Roads: Construction

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to introduce signage to alert motorists to the presence of stone mastic asphalt on recently resurfaced roads; and if she will make a statement. [193795]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has authorised a specific traffic sign to advise road users of reduced skid resistance and of a maximum advisory speed following a road resurfacing. The management of local roads is the responsibility of the local highway authority, who can seek authorisation from the Department to use this sign. The Highways Agency, which manages the English trunk road network, does not use stone mastic asphalt.

Roads: Taxation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what road taxation revenue was in each year since 1997. [191757]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Vehicle Excise Duty collected for each year since 1997 is as follows:

		£ million
	Gross	*Net*
1997-98	4,717	4,487
1998-99	5,099	4,855
1999-2000	5,054	4,738
2000-01	5,250	4,658
2001-02	4,884	4,158
2002-03	4,612	4,385
2003-04	4,916	4,689
2004-05	4,972	4,737
2005-06	5,190	4,953
2006-07	5,220	4,984

Net figures are gross receipts less refunds.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will provide in tabular form the allocation of the proposed new 1,300 train carriages by *(a)* franchise, *(b)* date and *(c)* type of vehicle. [193050]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is in discussions with the franchise operators with respect to their requirements. I refer the hon. Member to the Rolling Stock Plan on the Department for Transport web site, which set out indicative number of vehicles required by English TOCs.

(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/rollingstock).

Sea France: Industrial Disputes

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to UK business and UK transport interests of transport disruption during the current Sea France strike and the consequent implementation of Operation Stack. [193324]

Mr. Tom Harris: We do not have the necessary information at this stage to enable us to make an accurate estimate of these costs.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of speed cameras on the incidence of traffic accidents in England and Wales in each year since 1997.. [191761]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following independent evaluations, undertaken for the Department, confirm that there have been substantial reductions in speeding and casualties at camera sites. These are available in the Library of the House, and on the Department's website:

A cost recovery system for speed and red-light cameras—Two year pilot evaluation (11 February 2003).

The national safety camera programme—Three year evaluation report (15 June 2004).

The national safety camera programme—Four year evaluation report (15 December 2005).

The most recent four-year evaluation recorded a 42 per cent. reduction in death and serious injury at camera sites and a 22 per cent. reduction in personal injury collisions.

Trams: Leeds

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on consultants for work on the Leeds Supertram; and if she will make a statement. [192433]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has spent a total of £106,748.26 on consultancy services specific~~ally~~ related to the Leeds Supertram scheme since the project was originally submitted to the Department by the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive in 2000.

Transport: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the remit and timescale of the proposed Sussex Route Utilisation Study. [192960]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is responsible for preparing Route Utilisation Strategies (RUSs). The remit of RUSs is to seek to balance capacity, passenger and freight demand, operational performance and cost, to address the requirements of funders and stakeholders. Work on the Sussex RUS commenced in January 2008. The RUS is due to be completed during 2009.

Transport: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department has allocated for new transport projects in Yorkshire and the Humber in the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [193742]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In addition to the £927 million that has been allocated to the Yorkshire and Humber region for major transport projects up to 2015-16, a further £232 million has been allocated for smaller scale local authority integrated transport schemes for the next three-year period up to 2010-11.

There is also currently £65 million of programmed expenditure on the motorway network and a further £8 million on the rail network in Yorkshire and Humber, both within the next 10-year period.

Additional road and rail schemes in Yorkshire and Humber that will involve considerable levels of funding in the coming 10 years are at the option development stage, and as such, it is not currently possible to allocate specific funding levels against them.

Certainly, additional transport funding will be available for Yorkshire and Humber over the next 10-year period, including allocations from the £200 million that has been made available to support housing growth through the Community Infrastructure Fund and the £10 billion that has been set aside for enhancing the capacity of the national rail network. However, this has yet to be allocated toward specific schemes.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes her Department is planning to make to regulation 14 of the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. [193789]

John Healey: The Government are not seeking to make changes to the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley, of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W, on council tax: appeals, how many council tax appeals were *(a)* received, *(b)* considered by tribunals and *(c)* allowed in whole or in part, in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to date, broken down by billing authority. [194392]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Pensioners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have introduced local council tax discounts for pensioners. [194025]

John Healey: As at 8 October 2007, four authorities—Bury metropolitan borough council, Kirklees council, the London borough of Hillingdon and the metropolitan borough council of Wirral—reported that they had introduced schemes to grant local council tax discounts for pensioners.

Empty Property: Rates and Rating

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is liable to pay empty property rates; and who is eligible for exemption from empty property rates. [193759]

John Healey: Section 45 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 provides that owners of empty non-domestic properties are liable to pay non-domestic rates unless the property falls within a class prescribed by regulation 4 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008 No. 386, which was laid before Parliament on the 26 February 2008.

Housing: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department gives to local authorities and inspectors on the consideration to be given to local housing need when reaching planning decisions on proposals for affordable housing in rural areas where the proposals are brought forward under rural exceptions policies. [194167]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) expects local planning authorities and regions to take a positive, plan-led approach to providing market and affordable housing in rural areas. In particular, it requires authorities to assess local need for affordable housing so that they can set appropriate targets for the amount of housing to be provided in their plans, including specifying the size and type of housing that, in their judgment, is likely to be required.

Where proposals are brought forward for affordable housing under the rural exception site policy, PPS3 expects that schemes are considered against the local plan's housing objectives, including the need for affordable housing in the area. In particular, a rural exception site policy should be used to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection, while also ensuring that rural areas continue to develop as sustainable, mixed, inclusive communities.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments each English regional chamber has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [193941]

John Healey: In 2006-07 the South East England Regional Assembly spent £63,240 on research to inform the region's updated Regional Housing Strategy and housing investment priorities. In 2007-08 the Assembly has committed to spend £62,300 on research to gather residents' views on regional priorities.

In 2006-07 the East Midlands Regional Assembly spent £52,700 on Ipsos MORI research to gather residents' views on regional priorities.

None of the other six Regional Assemblies engaged Ipsos MORI to undertake research in the period concerned.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to provide the Welsh Assembly Government with the analysis of the cluster innovative project on the restoration of groups of contaminated sites. [194961]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 'Cluster' approach involves identifying a hub site to act as a centre for processing and treating contaminated soils. It is then possible to clean up and redevelop a number of local smaller sites by sending contaminated soils to the hub site for treatment and then returning the cleaned up soils for reuse as part of the development works at the smaller sites.

English Partnerships, together with National Grid and the Environment Agency, have been working on a pilot 'Cluster' project in Sheffield. The generic working plan for this concept is currently being written up and will be published in spring 2008. The document will demonstrate how 'Cluster' works on the ground and will substantiate the predicted environmental and financial savings. A workshop is being organized by CL:AIRE (Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments) in association with English Partnerships to launch the document. An invitation to the workshop will be issued to the Welsh Assembly Government. The generic working plan will also be made available on the CL:AIRE website www.claire.co.uk so that any interested organization can access it.

Local Authorities: Pensions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the value of each local authority's pension fund was at the most recent date for which information is available; and what estimate she has made of the value of each local authority's fund invested in accordance with a socially responsible investment policy; [194299]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to promote socially responsible investment policies among fund holding local authority pension schemes; and if she will make a statement. [194300]

John Healey: Since 2000, the 89 pension fund authorities in England and Wales which administer the Local Government Pension Scheme have been required by the scheme's regulations to publish and maintain a Statement of Investment Principles, including their policy on the extent to which social, environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. The regulations also require that each statement is published locally.

All the scheme's funds in England and Wales are undergoing an actuarial valuation of their funds as at 31 March 2007, as required by its regulations. The outcome for each fund will not be known until later in the year. In the meantime, the results from the 2004 valuation for English local authorities participating in the Scheme are given at

www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com/actvale.pdf.

Information about the proportion of funds invested under a socially responsible investment policy is held by individual fund authorities; it is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Individual fund authorities in England and Wales will be able to provide specific figures for their funds.

Local Government Finance: Newcastle-under-Lyme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Tyneside of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2139-40W, what progress is being made in the recovery of the money wrongly paid to Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council. [194591]

John Healey: My officials are discussing options for repayment of the mis-allocated funding with Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council, with a view to reaching a swift conclusion.

Local Government Services: Assessments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with what frequency each local authority will be assessed under the new comprehensive area assessment; and what effect *(a)* the previous inspection rating of the authority and *(b)* the type of authority will have on the frequency of assessment. [193861]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 17 March 2008:

Your Parliamentary Question which asks with what frequency each local authority will be assessed under the new comprehensive area assessment and how those frequencies will vary according to (a) the previous inspection rating of the authority and (b) the type of authority has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission is working in partnership with Ofsted, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission, HMI Constabulary, HMI Probation and HMI Prisons to develop the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework. The first CAA reports are planned for the autumn of 2009.

Outline proposals for the CAA framework were set out by the inspectorates in our joint consultation paper of November 2007. This explained that the three-yearly rolling programmes of corporate assessments of all single tier and county councils and joint area reviews of children's services would both end in 2008/09. The annual service assessments of adult social care, children and young people, housing, environment, culture and benefits will also end with the final set of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) scores in 2008/09. The CPA framework for district councils, which does not involve annual service assessments or a rolling programme of corporate assessments, will also end in 2008/09.

In place of CPA, CAA will require fewer major inspection events and will shift the focus of the inspectorates from detailed service management issues to the outcomes being achieved in partnership by the public bodies in each area. Greater reliance will be placed on self assessment and the improvement activity of local authorities themselves, and the volume of inspection will reduce significantly.

The government's policy priorities for CAA were set out in a joint ministerial commissioning letter to the inspectorates in April 2007. That letter stated that:

The CAA will comprise:

> annual publication of the performance of all areas against all the measures in the single set of around 200 national indicators;
>
> an Annual Risk Assessment for every area—to be delivered jointly by the Audit Commission working with other inspectorates;
>
> an annual scored Direction of Travel judgement for every local authority which assesses the effectiveness of each local authority in driving continuous improvement; and
>
> an annual scored Use of Resources judgement for all local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Fire & Rescue Authorities and Police Authorities by the Audit Commission, building on the current such judgements to provide public, independent assurance about the organisational effectiveness of these key local partners.

The November joint inspectorate consultation document set out a proposed approach to delivering these elements of CAA. Although each element is proposed to be reported annually, the inspection work required will be heavily influenced by the performance of the local authority and, where relevant, its partners and the inspectorates' assessment of risk. In this way, high performing local authorities and partnerships will experience significantly less inspection activity than their lower performing peers, and the total volume of inspection activity will be significantly less than at present.

The inspectorates are currently evaluating the 327 responses to the November consultation, which closed on 15 February 2008, and will be considering changes to the proposed CAA framework both in the light of those responses and their early field testing of different elements. Any proposed changes will be subject to thorough discussion with all stakeholders, including local and central government, other local public services and the third sector.

A further joint consultation paper due in July 2008 will present the revised proposals and will include a more detailed explanation of how the inspectorates will ensure that the CAA framework reduces the burden of assessment on local authorities, and their partners, and reflects a proportionate approach to risk and performance. After a further round of pilots in the summer and autumn, the final CAA framework will be published in December 2008.

I trust that this reply is helpful and I would be happy to provide further details or meet to discuss the development of CAA at any time.

The text of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

National Brownfield Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria will be used to determine the stakeholder membership of the National Brownfield Forum; and when she expects the forum to be established. [194962]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Brownfield Forum will oversee the implementation of the National Brownfield Strategy and will report annually on progress. The Forum will aim to improve co-ordination between Government, the regulators and practitioners and to encourage the exchange of best practice and knowledge. The main criteria used to determine the membership of the group will be to secure the most effective representation across the range of stakeholders involved in brownfield issues including Government Departments, Government Agencies, Devolved Administrations, private sector network representation, NGOs and professional institutions. The aim is to hold about four meetings a year with the first taking place in early summer 2008.

Public Lavatories

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research the Audit Commission has undertaken on the provision of public conveniences since May 1997; and what advice it has issued to local authorities based on such research. [193997]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 17 March 2008:

Your Parliamentary Question on what research the Audit Commission has undertaken on the provision of public conveniences since May 1997; and what advice it has issued to local authorities based on such research has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has not carried out research into the provision of public conveniences, nor do we plan to do so. Consequently the Commission has not issued any advice to local authorities.

The text of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Armed Forces: Peterborough

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been received by Cambridgeshire police of abuse of service personnel in Peterborough in the last six months. [194859]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected by the Home Office.

Arrests

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made in London by the Metropolitan police in each of the last 10 years. [189307]

Mr. McNulty: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. The number of arrests made by the Metropolitan police is given in the table from 1999-2000 (previous years data are unreliable) to 2005-06 (latest available). From aggregated data collected centrally we are not able to identify the location of an arrest.

Persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by the Metropolitan police force 1999-2000 to 2005-06—England and Wales

	Number
1999-2000	202,218
2000-01	180,634
2001-02	179,358
2002-03	186,808
2003-04	185,254
2004-05	[1]187,808
2005-06	200,029

[1] Figures amended since publication of 2004/05 Bulletin.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Borders: Police

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 11-12WS, on policing (UK borders), (1) what percentage of the costs of deploying special branch officers was met by the dedicated security post grants in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by constabulary; [194699]

(2) to which police forces and agencies each of those police permanently based at UK borders belong; how many are *(a)* warranted constables, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* civilian staff; what powers local chief constables have to redeploy police based at UK borders; and whether ministerial approval is required for such redeployments. [194700]

Mr. McNulty: The Government allocate funding to the relevant local police force for Special Branch officers through the dedicated security post grants, as a contribution towards their costs. The percentage breakdown requested is not held centrally.

The Home Office works closely with the ACPO National Co-ordinator of Ports Policing to determine the distribution of the DSP grant between force areas. The outcome of the 2008-09 allocation of the DSP grant reflected a national reassessment of the priorities for Special Branch presence at ports across the UK. This resulted in a decision to increase the overall presence by the 39 additional officers referred to in the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008. It would prejudice the operational effectiveness of Special Branch work at ports to disclose how the distribution of officers was broken down by port or force area.

The deployment of police officers, police community support officers and civilian staff at the UK border is an operational matter for individual Chief Officers. Ministerial approval is not required for those deployments, and the breakdown requested is not held centrally.

Case Reference B3416/7 (H423624)

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to find the file relating to the constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall, case reference B3416/7 (H423624); and when she expects the case to be resolved; [180305]

(2) when she expects to answer question 180305 tabled by the hon. Member for Vauxhall on 25 January, on finding the file regarding a constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall, case reference B34164/7 (H423624). [191807]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 March 2008.

Citizenship

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* participation in the activities of political parties and *(b)* preaching of religion by migrants holding probationary citizenship will count as active citizenship, as outlined in her Department's Green Paper, A Pathway to Citizenship. [190181]

Mr. Byrne: We are proposing that migrants who have demonstrated their commitment to the UK and contribute in a positive way to British society should be allowed to complete the journey to citizenship more quickly than those who have chosen not to. The Green Paper sets out a list of activities already in existence which we believe could constitute a good list for would be citizens to consider. This list does not include either participation in the activities of political parties or preaching of religion by migrants. We are inviting views on the type of activities that should be taken into account. We will finalise our proposals—ensuring that only those activities which contribute in a positive way are taken into account—following the consultation period which ends on 14 May.

Criminal Investigation: Portugal

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work was carried out by those UK police officers who assisted in the investigation into the disappearance of Madeline McCann in Portugal; and if she will make a statement . [193285]

Mr. McNulty: A number of UK law enforcement agencies have provided operational assistance to the Portuguese authorities in the investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191488]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Annex pertaining to the Home Office, (Annex D7) in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227). Further detail on our plans to deliver value for money across the comprehensive spending review period can be found in my Department's Value for Money Delivery Agreement, published on the Home Office website on 5 December 2007.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what conclusions her Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190675]

Mr. Byrne: We plan to publish the Race, Disability and Gender Equality Scheme progress report later this spring 2008.

The evidence received to date shows that Home Office has been working with other Government Departments to combat disability blue badge theft, fraud and misuse. Much work has been undertaken to involve a wide range of organisations, such as Mencap, Voice UK, The Anne Craft Trust, and Age Concern, whilst developing the Crime Strategy. The Home Office has also achieved the RNIB "See it Right with UseAbility" accreditation. The Interview Office Network premises have all undergone rigorous consultation with focus groups to ensure that all premises meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements.

Reasonable adjustments are made for staff under the Home Office Access to Work scheme. Guidance on the scheme is made available to all staff to ensure that the necessary adjustments are made.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against her Department's computer systems in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [167973]

Mr. Byrne: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulatory impact assessments her Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191271]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the final Regulatory Impact Assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7297/7297.pdf

For The Home Office, five Regulatory Impact Assessments have been listed. Departments are in the process of identifying the final Regulatory Impact Assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007. From April 2008, all final Impact Assessments will be published on a central website.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) her Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185527]

Mr. Byrne: Information on Wikipedia entries created by Home Office special advisers, Ministers and communication officials could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169037]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office had the following staff turnover over the last 12 and 24-month periods.

		Percentage
	12 months November 2006 to October 2007	*24 months November 2005 to October 2007*
Home Office Headquarters	1.90	4.60
Border and Immigration Agency	3.07	6.58
Identity and Passport Agency	7.80	7.10
Criminal Records Bureau	6.80	16.70
HMPS (moved to MOJ on 9 May 2007)	8.40	16.80

Departmental Legislation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation sponsored by her Department since 1997 has yet to be brought into force, broken down by Act. [193855]

Mr. McNulty: The following table lists provisions of Acts for which the Home Office has policy responsibility which received Royal Assent since 1 May 1997, but which (as at 13 March 2008) are not yet in force.

Act	*Sections not in force*
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	85(5), Sch 2(2)
Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	78
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004	16
Crime (International Co-Operation) Act 2003	10-12, 20-25, 54-75, Sch 3, Sch 4

Act	*Sections not in force*
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	78(7), 80(4), Sch 7 part 6 (in part)
Domestic Violence, Crime and 'Victims Act 2004	9, 12 and Schedules 10, 11 and 12 (in part)
Drugs Act 2005	2
Identity Cards Act 2006	l(l)-(4), l(5)-(8), 2-24, 27-29, 30, 31-34, 35, 39, 41, 42,43, Sch 1
Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	16 and 17, 117(5)
Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006	4, 33, 44, 47, 50(3) and (6)
Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002	10(5)(a), 17 and 18 (for certain purposes), 19-34, 35(1)(a)-(g)(i) and (2) and (3), 36, 37, 39, 40(2) and (3), 44-47, 51 to 53, 124
Police and Justice Act 2006	14, 17, 19(l)-(9) and (11), 20, 21, 34-38, 39(l)-(3), (5)-(7), 40(l)-(3), (5)-(7), 43(1), 46 (part) and Schedules 8, 11 and 12, and Schedules 1, 2, 5, 13, 14, and 15 (all in part)
Police Reform Act 2002	45
Private Security Industry Act 2001	17 (part)
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	Sch 11 para 17 (2) and Sch 12 (part)
UK Borders Act 2007	9, 10-11 (part), 12,13 (part) 17,19 and 21, 24-25, 32-39
Serious Crime Act 2007	The Act, except the following provisions which have been brought into force in part or for some purposes: sections 24(9) and (10), 37, 40(1), (2) and (4), 68(8), 71(1), (2), (4) and (5), 73, 74(1)(2) and (3), 85, 88 and 92 and Schedule 7, paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 6, Schedule 8 paragraphs 115 and 169 and Schedule 14.
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	120 114(9), 117(part), 162(3), Sch 4 (part), Sch 9 (part), Sch 10 (part), Sch 14 (part)
Vehicle (Crime) Act 2001	8, 34, 35, 36, Sch paras 1 and 2
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006	1-14, 15-20, 43 (part), 59, 61, Sch 2 (part), Sch 5 (part)

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192049]

Mr. Byrne: A limited number of pot plants are provided through the PFI contract in some of the shared areas of 2 Marsham street, the costs of which are not charged separately. Elsewhere on the Department's estate figures on pot plant costs are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residential properties her Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192998]

Mr. Byrne: The Department owns one residential property (held on long lease) which has been vacant for just over 12 months. Agents have been appointed to dispose of it.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down her Department's outturn by subhead in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms for the financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [190758]

Mr. Byrne: Near cash/non-cash splits relate to Departmental Expenditure Limit resource budget controls and are not compatible with Supply Estimates which relate to voted resource expenditure.

The following table assigns the near and non-cash elements of the 2002-07 resource DEL outturns to the related sections used in the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2007-08. The outturns shown take account of all later Machinery of Government and classification changes and are on a basis comparable to that used in the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2007-08. Outturn for 2001-02 has not been included as comparative historical data are only readily available for five past years.

		2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
	Resource DEL	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*
A	Police	146,881	1,371	109,705	1,636	94,028	926	116,789	1,870	84,211	(5,599)
B	Crime reduction	2,458	0	262	0	40,712	7	38,232	0	36,555	1,272
C	Criminal Records Bureau	31,768	0	6,261	1,098	(2,347)	1,348	(18,837)	635	(25,393)	(1)
C	Counter terrorism and Intelligence	79,829	7,320	119,521	11,639	128,036	12,724	154,189	16,265	112,301	0
E	Drugs	29,354	0	15,272	0	14,554	21	(8,204)	0	23,204	0
K	Border and Immigration Agency	1,515,113	82,825	1,434,049	52,420	1,343,048	17,701	1,280,276	34,798	1,246,394	76,242
L	Identity and Passport Service	(11,350)	0	(26,639)	4,402	(11,332)	2,660	(30,868)	12,000	8,159	22,237
M	Central services	211,147	17,043	198,689	5,516	228,103	13,568	214,619	1,048	222,375	6,075
N	European refugee fund	0	0	(16)	0	2,516	0	0	0	(1,015)	0
O	Police grants	4,396,974	0	4,891,237	0	4,892,366	0	5,274,990	0	5,257,093	0

		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Resource DEL	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*	*Near cash*	*Non-cash*
P	Crime reduction grants	112,416	0	99,002	0	169,487	0	122,923	0	155,232	0
Q	Counter terrorism and intelligence grants	51,265	0	82,414	0	215,522	0	288,982	0	264,408	0
R	Border and Immigration Agency grants	255,684	0	403,157	0	255,168	0	215,255	0	146,880	0
W	Independent Police Complaints Commission	0	0	10,390	0	21,294	2,792	24,059	2,315	28,230	3,042
X	SOCA	7,886	0	7,380	0	7,261	0	6,538	0	364,310	22,743
Y	Security Industry Authority	0	0	6,836	533	9,071	3,042	1,076	3,389	(1,000)	3,047
AE	Office of the Immigration Service Commissioner	3,419	191	3,092	183	3,654	182	(1,547)	1,696	4,260	120
AH	National Policing Improvement Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Central Police Training and Development Agency[1]	73,416	16,888	93,246	0	73,934	9,349	91,582	11,217	51,130	19,429
	Firearms compensation[3]	63	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
	Kosovan evacuees special grant[3]	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	National Crime Squad[2]	134,246	6,118	155,741	6,800	155,567	6,200	132,569	19,501	0	0
	National Criminal Intelligence Service[2]	58,728	13,861	70,160	12,272	74,706	9,129	69,926	7,980	0	0
	Police Complaints Authority[1]	5,234	2,681	5,395	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Police information technology organisation[1]	58,544	1,936	119,845	1,450	166,934	880	193,533	2,580	193,318	10,251
	Grand total	7,163,095	150,234	7,804,999	97,949	7,882,288	80,529	8,166,082	115,294	8,170,652	158,858

[1] NDPB's superseded by the National Policing Improvement Agency (section AH).

[2] NDPB's superseded by SOCA (section X).

[3] Estimate sections that are no longer used.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in her Department and its agencies. [165240]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office information provision provides the public with factual information, practical advice and access to services, on for example, how to protect themselves against crime, access help for drug users, and protect their children on the internet.

The number of full-time equivalent staff responsible for information provision is:

22 in the relevant Home Office Communication Directorate;

six in the Border and Immigration agency; and

six in Identity and Passport Service.

The number of full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management is:

10 per cent. of one post in the Home Office central Corporate Communication unit in Communication Directorate;

50 per cent. of four posts in the Border and Immigration agency owing to new brand implementation as a result of the new agency structure; and

one in Identity and Passport Service.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of her Department's translation and interpreting work is outsourced through framework agreements with commercial providers; and if she will make a statement. [189148]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's policy is to outsource all translation work through framework agreements with commercial providers. The Department has no similar agreements in relation to interpreting. Where the Department requires face-to-face interpreting services these are generally obtained from individual freelance interpreters.

Deportation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons apart from those refused entry at port and subsequently removed, those dealt with at juxtaposed controls, asylum seekers and their dependants, foreign national prisoners at the end of the sentences, those leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes and those who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities, were removed from the UK in each of the last five years. [180621]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The following table shows the number of non-asylum cases removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action between 2003 and 2007. These figures may include some persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and foreign national prisoners. This is the latest five year period for which national statistics are available.

The figures provided exclude non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, all persons who had claimed asylum at some stage (including their dependants), those leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Non-asylum cases removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures[1, 2, 3] 2002-07

	Number of removals
2003	11,365
2004	10,070
2005	11,970
2006[4]	9,800
2007[4]	12,410

[1] Includes enforced removals and persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them.
[2] Excludes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including those dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration, those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities and all asylum removals (including dependants).
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[4] Provisional figures.

Deportation: Police Custody

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average detainees awaiting deportation spent in police custody in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in 2007. [193600]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records and it would only be at disproportionate cost to provide the detail requested.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177487]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not fund or provide English language classes for staff on a departmental wide basis. Staff needs are identified on an individual basis and any requirements not provided centrally may be met from local provision. No records are held centrally of local provision and it would incur a disproportionate cost to identify the nature of locally provided training across the Department.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the dependants of the work-permit holders given leave to enter the UK since 1 January 2004 were aged under 16 years. [162351]

Mr. Byrne: The requested figures are in the following table.

Passengers recorded as aged under 16 given leave to enter the United Kingdom as dependants of work permit holders, 2004 to 2006

	Number
2004	16,700
2005	17,700
2006	18,700
Total	53,200

Notes:
1. Data rounded to three significant places, therefore they do not sum to the total shown.
2. Includes nationals of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
3. This information is not published as a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Offenders

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were granted entry clearance or leave to enter the UK *(a)* who had and *(b)* who went on to gain in the UK a conviction which in the UK would result in at least a 12 month prison sentence in the last 12 months. [192039]

Mr. Byrne: It has been made clear that we will seek to deport those foreign nationals who commit serious crimes within the UK. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the subject of foreign national prisoners. The information requested would require the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost.

Evidence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure is followed by police officers investigating cases where the available evidence is based on conflicting statements by the complainant and alleged perpetrator; and if she will make a statement. [188516]

Mr. McNulty: It is an operational matter for the chief officer to determine whether to proceed with an investigation. If the decision is taken to proceed with the investigation, paragraph 3.5 of the Code of Practice issued under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 provides that investigators

> "should pursue all reasonable lines of inquiry, whether these point towards or away from the suspect."

If conflicting statements are made by the complainant and the person they have accused of committing an offence, police would seek independent evidence to see which of the conflicting accounts can be corroborated. Depending on the offence concerned, this evidence might take the form of forensic examinations or come from statements taken from independent witnesses who are unconnected with either the complainant or the suspect. It might also involve asking the complainant and suspect for more details to check and test what they said previously. At any stage, it would be for police to decide whether they have sufficient grounds to arrest the suspect and whether arrest is necessary to progress the investigation.

Foreigners: Sports

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2083W, on foreigners: sports, whether she plans to increase *(a)* the visa fee payable for a sportsperson from a visa national country coming to participate at a sporting event in the UK and *(b)* what the visa national countries are. [193220]

Mr. Byrne: The visa fee currently payable for a sportsperson from a visa national country coming to participate at a sporting event in the UK is £99.

Applications made under the creative and sporting sub-category of tier 5 of the points based system will be set at £99—also below cost recovery levels.

A list of the countries subject to a visa regime is as follows.

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bhutan
Bosnia Herzegovina
Burkina Faso
Burma
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad

People's Republic of China (except those referred to in sub-paragraphs 2(d) and (e) of this appendix)

Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea (North)
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan

Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Russia
Rwanda
Sao Tome e Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surinam
Syria
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe
The territories formerly comprising the socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

(b) Persons who hold passports or travel documents issued by the former Soviet Union or by the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(c) Stateless persons.

(d) Persons who hold non-national documents.

Immigrants: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of how many and what proportion of spouses from Pakistan arrived in the UK in each of the last 10 years unable to speak English. [193735]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available. It is not a current requirement of the immigration rules for a spouse to demonstrate command of the English language before he/she can be granted spouse entry clearance in order to enter the UK.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of 17 December 2007, how many of the cases closed under the legacy exercise were due to *(a)* erroneous and *(b)* duplicate records; how such errors and duplications arose; how many of the individuals concerned have been traced; how many of the cases were closed because the individual concerned could not be traced; and what estimate she has made of the number of people dealt with by the legacy exercise who remain in the UK without leave to remain. [177360]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: On 17 December 2007 Lin Homer provided a written update to the Home Affairs Select Committee stating that 52,000 older asylum cases had been concluded and of these 17,000 were closed due to previously erroneous or duplicate errors. Of this 17,000, approximately 2,000 were duplicates; 9,500 were errors and 5,500 were EU nationals where the individual originally applied for asylum, but their country of origin has since acceded to the EU.

These errors and duplications arose as part of the backlog of unresolved cases that the previous Home Secretary informed the House of in July 2006.

Where a case has been closed because it is a duplicate or an error, the individuals involved will already have been granted status or removed.

The previous Home Secretary also referred to the fact that some in some cases the individuals may have died or left the country since they had claimed asylum. We often do not have this information recorded. In future, when we introduce electronic embarkation checks, the situation should improve. In the meantime there are some individuals we are struggling to trace.

It is not possible to accurately forecast the number of people remaining in the UK without leave to remain under the legacy exercise, as each case is decided on its merits and there are an unknown, and significant number of data errors in the case records. We are prioritising cases using the following criteria: those who may pose a risk to the public, those who can more easily be removed, those receiving support, and those who may be granted leave.

Immigration Control Officer

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rank the supervising officer on duty at immigration control at major UK ports of entry is required to be while that port is operational. [193125]

Mr. Byrne: The primary arrivals control is operated by Immigration Officers who are supervised by Chief Immigration Officers at major UK ports.

A senior role is provided by HM Immigration Inspectors who have the responsibility for overall management of BIA port operations.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make a statement on the rules and procedures to combat illegal migration and progress expected to be made in areas such as border management, document security and the fight against organised crime by *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Bosnia and Herzegovina, *(c)* Montenegro, *(d)* Serbia, *(e)* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, *(f)* the Government and *(g)* the European Union in order to meet the terms of visa facilitation and readmission agreements; [185473]

(2) if she will make a statement on the effect for UK border control of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements between the EU and *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Bosnia and Herzegovina, *(c)* Montenegro, *(d)* Serbia and *(e)* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. [185474]

Mr. Byrne: The UK maintains the security of its own border controls and does not participate in EU visa facilitation agreements. The EU visa facilitation agreements concluded with the Western Balkan states, and therefore have no direct effect on UK border control. The agreements allow the UK to consider whether it should conclude bilateral visa facilitation agreements with the Western Balkans states. Were we to do so, we would ensure that they were consistent with the protection of the UK border and wider visa policy.

The UK regards European Community Readmission Agreements as a key part of co-operation with third countries and an essential component in the fight against illegal immigration. These agreements (with the exception of Albania) have only recently come into force, and it is therefore too early to gauge their effectiveness. However, we do expect them to ensure effective and rapid procedures for the identification, documentation and return of persons (nationals of the EU member states and the third country involved; third country nationals and stateless persons) illegally entering or remaining, and to facilitate the transit of persons, in the spirit of co-operation.

The Western Balkan states are all either candidate countries to join the EU (Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) or potential candidate countries. Progress in achieving EU-level standards, including in border control and organised crime, is part of the candidate process and is assessed each year by the European Commission.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the introduction of the points-based immigration system on the operation of the resident labour market test; and what plans she has to amend the test. [191944]

Mr. Byrne: We will ensure that under the PBS we continue to protect the privileged position held by British workers in the job market.

Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make it her policy to ensure that existing safeguards for migrant domestic workers will remain in place following the launch of the points-based migration system; [193282]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the new points-based immigration system on domestic workers; and what measures she has put in place to protect domestic workers. [193283]

Mr. Byrne: We are conducting research and analysis in respect of the current provisions for overseas domestic workers. Once this research is complete, we will publish it. In the light of its findings, we will consider separately, with interested parties, how best to achieve protection for any person, irrespective of how they have entered the UK, who is found to be a victim of trafficking.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent immigration officers were employed in each year since 1997. [193130]

Mr. Byrne: The figures for the number of immigration officers (IOs) who have been employed in each year since 1997 are shown in the table.

Figures provided are for the number of immigration officers as at 31 March each year since 1997, except 2008 where the figures were recorded at 28 February. Data from 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2004 are taken from archived Home Office Personnel system—PIMMS. Data since 31 March 2005 to 28 February 2008 are taken from the Home Office Personnel System—Adelphi.

Date[1]	*IOs all*[2]	*IOs active*[3]
1997	1711.1	—
1998	1683.4	—
1999	1617.6	—
2000	1667.9	—
2001	2244.2	—
2002	2459	—
2003	3052.7	—
2004	3469.8	—
2005	3401	3245.3
2006	—	3439.23
2007	—	3575.54
2008	—	3841.6

[1] 31 March data for each year with the exception of 2008 which is 29 February 2008 data.

[2] Staff at immigration officer grade, including staff on career break, special leave, maternity leave.

[3] Active staff at immigration officer grade, excluding staff on career break, special leave, maternity leave.

Immigration Officers: Crimes of Violence

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department has issued to immigration officers on dealing with members of the public who become violent or abusive while passing through immigration control. [193126]

Mr. Byrne: Two new offences relating to assaulting an immigration officer have been introduced and come into force on 31 January 2008. Section 3 of the UK Borders Act 2007 introduces new offences where a person assaults or obstructs a designated immigration officer in the exercise of Section 2 of the UK Borders Act. Section 22 of the same act creates an offence of assaulting an immigration officer. Guidance on both of these new offences has been circulated to all Border Control operational staff.

Further guidance is available to Home Office staff on reducing the risk of violence at work and working alone in safety. This guidance supplements training which immigration officers undertake during their operational service. Local risk assessments are used to determine the appropriate level of Personal Safety Training (PST) required by immigration officers.

Immigration: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the letter of 17 December 2007, from Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, what criteria have been set to prioritise the immigration cases of individuals who are deemed to pose a potential threat to the public; how many such cases have been identified; and how many of the individuals concerned have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK. [177324]

Mr. Byrne: As Lin Homer wrote in her letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 18 February 2008, the

"need to remove the most harmful people first is reflected in the Case Resolution Directorate's priorities and processes"

All applicants and their dependants aged 10 and over are checked against the police national computer (PNC) to establish whether these individuals have criminal convictions in the UK before a decision is made. Where it is identified that the individual has been guilty of serious criminality, we prioritise consideration and seek to deport them in accordance with the Agency-wide criteria.

As at the end of November 2007, we had concluded 52,000 backlog cases, of which, around one third (16,000) were removals. A detailed breakdown of the reasons for these removals, including whether they related to evidence of serious criminality could be obtained by examination of individual case records, only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Eurostar

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* undocumented and *(b)* incorrectly documented persons have arrived at London on Eurostar in each of the last 24 months. [180332]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The number of undocumented and inadequately documented passengers arriving in the UK on Eurostar for the last 24 months are as follows:

No document and inadequately documented arrivals at Waterloo/St. Pancras

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2006													
No document	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5	1	0	11
IDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	6
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	1	3	17
2007													
No Document	0	0	5	6	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	19
IDA	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	11
Total	2	0	5	9	5	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	30

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the impact on demand for social housing arising from the grants of leave to remain under the legacy exercise; and if she will make a statement. [177351]

Mr. Byrne: In dealing specifically with families who have been allowed to remain and are no longer entitled to asylum support, where we judge an individual and their family have a right to live in Britain, our aspiration is that no one need go through the homelessness mechanism. To help make this a reality, we made a number of pledges to local authorities about the way we will work.

Work on these supported family cases was originally due to be completed by October 2007. In response to concerns expressed by local authorities that the timescales involved were too short, we agreed to extend the work on these cases until March 2008.

Following my personal review and meetings with a number of local authorities and the LGA we have supported local authorities by:

putting in place a package of assistance for local authorities, including a 'transitional costs fund';

improving the detail of case information available to local authorities;

encouraged our private sector providers to co-operate with the programme (principally by allowing existing properties to transfer to the private rented market);

worked closely with local authorities in an attempt to reach individual agreements;

agreed to include schemes to help prevent homelessness in the reimbursement package; this would effectively give local authorities an additional six months to find solutions for individual families.

We have worked closely with local authorities and our private sector providers to broker arrangements where families given leave to remain can stay in their existing accommodation. Where this proves impossible, we have put in place arrangements to assist them to secure an alternative private sector tenancy rather than moving them into social housing.

Immigration: Iraq

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former Iraqi employees of the Government have been accommodated in the UK by the Government in 2007; and how many she expects the Government to accommodate in 2008. [191925]

Mr. Byrne: No former Iraqi employees of the Government were accommodated in 2007 under the scheme of assistance for locally engaged Iraqi staff.

It would not be appropriate to speculate how many former Iraqi staff will be accommodated in 2008. Each application for assistance will be considered on its merits against the criteria for the scheme and also, in the case of those seeking resettlement under the Gateway Programme, against published policy.

Members: Correspondence

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 13 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire inviting the Minister for Borders and Immigration and for the West Midlands to visit Worcestershire to discuss the future of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme; [179826]

(2) when she will reply to Question 179826, on a reply to correspondence on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme, tabled by the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on 14 January. [191360]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 March 2008.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 5 February 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [193545]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, North on 7 March 2008. This letter was faxed to his office on the same day.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to his letter of 30 January concerning a constituent, reference H1109704. [193749]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 12 March 2008.

Mr. Rausch

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in finding the file of Mr. Rausch, a constituent of the hon. Member for St. Albans; and what steps are being taken to find the file. [190682]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency has Mr. Rausch's file and has written to his home address explaining the next steps for him to take.

Mrs. Nyatsanza

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made on the application of Mrs. Nyatsanza of Shoeburyness for the right to stay in the UK on the basis of marriage, Home Office reference C1090509. [169322]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 March 2008.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have been made by the freeholder to leasehold extension rights regarding the Government House in Pimlico in the last five years. [183488]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The property is held on leases to 2053 from a superior tenant. The Department is not aware of any changes to leasehold extension rights by the freeholder.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 120W, on official residences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the tender advice for the disposal of South Eaton Place; [193186]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on official residences, what the timetable is for producing the home information pack for the sale of South Eaton Place. [193192]

Mr. Byrne: The appointed selling agents, Savills UK (Sloane Street branch), are preparing advice on the best method of sale of the Home Secretary's former residence. This requires completion of relevant market research and pre-disposal due diligence. Once completed the Department will consider Savills' report and recommendations for successful disposal but as it is likely to be commercially confidential it is unlikely that it can be placed in the Library. The home information pack will be produced when the residence is placed on the market.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on official residences, who owns the freehold on the Government House in Pimlico, South Eaton Place. [193193]

Mr. Byrne: The freehold is owned by Grosvenor and is part of Grosvenor London Estate.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on official residences, on what date the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside moved *(a)* into and *(b)* out of the residence at South Eaton Place. [193194]

Mr. Byrne: The right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) moved into the residence at South Eaton Place in the summer of 1997 and moved out in March 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on official residences, what costs have been met by the public purse in respect of South Eaton Place during the period in which the property has been vacant. [193195]

Mr. Byrne: Excluding security-related decommissioning, costs of £4,500 have been incurred since March 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of the Government House in Pimlico was at its most recent valuation. [193196]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's leasehold interest in this property was most recently valued at £2.4 million.

Police Custody: Death

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons died in police custody from drug-related causes in each of the last five years. [194145]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the collation and publication of data in respect of persons who died in police custody rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in Lancashire Constabulary in each year since their inception. [193952]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are given in the following table, and are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for Lancashire as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007[3]

As at 31 March each year	PCSOs
2003	77
2004	110
2005[4]	161
2006[4]	184
2007[4]	374

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* force strength and *(b)* budget for Lancashire Constabulary was in each year since 1997. [193953]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are given in the following tables.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for Lancashire as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

Lancashire Police force as at 31 March each year	£
1997	3,248
1998	3,257
1999	3,245
2000	3,179
2001	3,255
2002	3,304
2003[3]	3,339
2004[3]	3,550
2005[3]	3,551
2006[3]	3,583
2007[3]	3,566

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Budget for Lancashire Constabulary from 1996-97 to 2007-08

	£ million
1996-97	163.60
1997-98	168.25
1998-99	174.41
1999-00	181.34
2000-01	189.62
2001-02	198.02
2002-03	202.03
2003-04	216.77
2004-05	228.94
2005-06	230.76
2006-07	239.53
2007-08	252.64

Police: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers there were in Morecambe and Lunesdale in the latest period for which figures are available. [192590]

Mr. McNulty: Figures collected by the Home Office relate to basic command units (BCUs) within police forces, and the BCU that most closely matches the Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency is the northern division of Lancashire constabulary.

The latest figures published by the Home Office for Lancashire northern division relate to 31 March 2007. The data are on a full-time equivalent basis and shows that there were 70 police community support officers and 444 police officers employed on this date. The figures include those on career breaks and maternity leave that were deployed to this BCU when their absence commenced.

Police: Telford

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many community support officers were deployed by West Mercia Police in its Telford division at the latest date for which a figure is available; [193907]

(2) how many full-time equivalent police officers were employed in the Telford division of West Mercia Constabulary in *(a)* January 1997 and *(b)* January 2008. [193906]

Mr. McNulty: Police service strength data are collected by basic command unit (BCU). The available data relate to the Telford and the Wrekin BCU, have been collected annually since 2002-03 and are given in the following table.

Police strength (FTE)[1] in Telford and the Wrekin basic command unit (West Mercia police) as at 31 March 2007[2]

	31 March 2007
Police officers[2, 3]	325
Police community support officers	41

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] BCU data are collected annually as at the end of the financial year (31 March).

[3] BCU data are not available prior to 2002-03. As at 31 March 1997 there were 2,040 police officers in West Mercia constabulary, increasing to 2,400 by 31 March 2007.

Polygamy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with colleagues in other Departments on the recognition of polygamous marriages; and if she will make a statement. [190487]

Mr. Byrne: I have not had recent discussions with colleagues in other Departments on the recognition of polygamous marriages.

The Immigration Directorate Instructions at:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter8annexes/

explain that it is Government policy to prevent the formation of polygamous households in this country. Polygamous marriages contracted overseas can be valid in this country only if:

1. Neither party was domiciled at the time of marriage in any part of the UK, and
2. Both parties had the personal capacity to enter into the marriage, and
3. The marriage is valid under the laws of the country in which it was celebrated.

A copy of the Immigration Directorate Instructions on polygamous and potential polygamous marriages will be placed in the House Library.

Register of Births

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether individuals whose names are recorded in the Register of Births at the General Register Office who *(a)* were and *(b)* are registered (i) under British Consular and (ii) Service department registers require any period of residence in the United Kingdom to be considered to be citizens of the United Kingdom. [192360]

Mr. Byrne: If a child is born overseas and is a British national his or her birth can be registered at the British consulate. The service department registers are for children born to those in the services: a child does not have to be a British national for his or her details to be entered.

The British Nationality Act 1981, which came into force on 1 January 1983, defines which people born after that date are British citizens. Under that legislation a person may be a British citizen "by descent" or "otherwise by descent". A child born outside the United Kingdom to a parent who is a British citizen "otherwise than by descent" will be a British citizen by descent. A parent who is a British citizen by descent cannot normally pass on citizenship to a child born outside the United Kingdom.

An exception to this is for children born to British citizens serving in Crown service or service designated by the Home Secretary as being closely associated with the activities outside the United Kingdom of Her Majesty's Government, and who were recruited to that service in the United Kingdom, or in European Community institution service and were recruited to that service in an EC country. Such children will acquire British citizenship otherwise than by descent and can thus pass citizenship on to their own children born overseas.

There is no provision for a child born overseas to a non-British citizen employed in the armed forces to become a British citizen, irrespective of his or her inclusion in the service department registers. Such a child would need to be registered as a British citizen or, if an adult, to apply for naturalisation. In order to naturalise he or she would have to meet a number of statutory requirements, which include residence in the United Kingdom.

Stop and Search: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be illegally carrying *(a)* weapons and *(b)* drugs during police stop and search procedures in Tamworth constituency in each of the last four years. [187860]

Mr. McNulty: The available information held by the Ministry of Justice is given in the table for Staffordshire police force area, in which the Tamworth constituency is located.

Number of arrests following stops and searches of persons or vehicles in the Staffordshire police force area, under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and other legislation[1], by period.

	Arrests made by reason for arrest		
	Offensive weapons	Firearms	Drugs
2002-03	151	15	479
2003-04	223	21	819
2004-05	276	23	942
2005-06	342	34	1,072

[1] Includes searches for drugs and firearms under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968 respectively.

Notes:

1. No stops and searches (in anticipation of violence) have been reported by the Staffordshire police force under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 during the periods given in the table.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when data are used.

Surveillance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which forms of interception are subject to authorisation by a warrant from her. [191032]

Mr. McNulty: All interceptions require authorisation by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State will only approve an interception warrant if it is necessary in the interests of national security; preventing or detecting serious crime; or safeguarding the economic well-being of the UK. In addition, the interception needs to be proportionate and the information obtained not reasonably available by other means. Authorisations are governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Interception relates to the content of a communication e.g. what is said in a phone call or written in an e-mail.

Communications data (CD), however, are data about communications and how they were made, but not what was said or written, and include: who participated in the communications; how the communication occurred (e.g. a telephone call, text message or e-mail message); when the communication happened (e.g. the date and time of the call and how long it lasted); where the participants in the communication were located when it took place (e.g. the location of the mobile phone which a text message was sent from and the location of the mobile phone which received the text message).

Terrorism: Arrests

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of those arrested in connection with suspected offences under *(a)* section 57 and *(b)* section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000 have been (i) released without charge, (ii) charged, (iii) convicted and given custodial sentences, (iv) convicted and given non-custodial sentences and (v) recommended for deportation or made subject of a decision to deport; [194529]

(2) how many of those arrested in connection with suspected offences under *(a)* section 1 and *(b)* section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 have been (i) released without charge, (ii) charged, (iii) convicted and given custodial sentences, (iv) convicted and given non-custodial sentences and (v) recommended for deportation or made subject of a decision to deport; and of those charged, what offences they were charged with. [194530]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Terrorism statistics are provided by the Metropolitan Police Service. The Home Office does not hold all the information requested. The statistics we do hold are not broken down in the format requested.

Vandalism: Arrests

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 25 were arrested for vandalism in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency or the nearest geographical area for which figures are available. [187444]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2546W, on Afghanistan, which company provides the civilian air transport used by ISAF in Afghanistan; on how many occasions UK troops have flown in aircraft so provided; what assessment he has made of the contribution to operations that the contract delivers; how the contract is funded and what the UK's contribution is; what percentage of the assets used by the contractor to date has been *(a)* rotary and *(b)* fixed wing; and if he will make a statement. [194031]

Des Browne: The company that provides the civilian air transport in Afghanistan, via the ISAF Contracted Air Transport (ICAT) contract is Mesopotamia Group, a US-registered company. ICAT is not contracted to fly military personnel and so UK military personnel do not travel on these flights. I am pleased with the effects of the ICAT contract, which is making a useful contribution to the NATO mission in Afghanistan, including by reducing pressures on military air and aviation assets. The contract is funded from NATO Common Funding, of which the UK contributes 12 per cent. as a standing share. Of the assets currently used by the contractor for the ICAT contract, 87 per cent. are rotary and 13 per cent. are fixed wing.

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the payments made to members of the armed forces on active service abroad towards their council tax will be increased from April in line with increases in council tax liabilities. [194401]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1114W.

Defence: Honours

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which employees of defence *(a)* companies and *(b)* related organisations have received honours on the recommendation of his Department in the last five years. [193520]

Derek Twigg: The number of employees of defence companies and related organisations who have received honours on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence in the last five years are set out as follows.

	Awards
New Year List 2003	37
Birthday List 2003	38
New Year List 2004	40
Birthday List 2004	40
Special Iraq Reconstruction List	1
New Year List 2005	29
Birthday List 2005	32
New Year List 2006	29
Birthday List 2006	27
New Year List 2007	33
Birthday List 2007	22
New Year List 2008	31

Full details of these awards were published in the *London Gazette*.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department *(a)* faced disciplinary proceedings as a result of allegations of theft, *(b)* were charged with theft and *(c)* were dismissed following theft allegations in each year since 1997. [193885]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Records are available however, for the total number of disciplinary dismissals from 2005-06 to present. These are as follows:

Ministry of Defence civilian staff—all disciplinary dismissals

	Number
2005-06	51
2006-07	61
2007-08	53

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the sums to be paid by his Department in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193769]

Derek Twigg: The Department has not made such an estimate. The use of the defence estate is kept under constant review and if property is likely to remain unoccupied, then officials will work closely with the Valuation Office Agency to reduce the Business Rates liability accordingly. Any property surplus to defence requirements will, where practical, either be let or sold in accordance with Treasury guidance.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185529]

Derek Twigg: We are aware of the following 13 Wikipedia entries being amended by communications officials in the MOD or its agencies in the course of their official duties since August 2005:

20th Armoured Brigade (United Kingdom)
Commander-in-Chief Fleet
Defence Equipment and Support
Defence Logistic Organisation
Defence Procurement Agency
Electronic Chart Display and Information System
Falklands Conflict
Human rights in post-invasion Iraq
Iraq: Transition to Provincial Iraqi Control
Met Office
Operation Sinbad
RAF High Wycombe
Warship Support Agency

All amendments were made to correct factual inaccuracies and in line with the civil service code. We are not aware of any entries being created by communications officials, created or amended by special advisers or Ministers.

Inforraation on IP addresses is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192442]

Derek Twigg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport gave on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether under the treaty of Lisbon the European Court of Justice will have jurisdiction over any aspect of the UK's foreign and defence policies; and what the definition of common foreign and security is in the Treaty. [191936]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is explicitly excluded with two limited exceptions. The ECJ will be able to monitor the boundary between the CFSP and other EU external action, as is currently the case; it will, in addition, be able to ensure that the CFSP cannot be affected by other EU policies as a distinct and equal area of action. In addition, individuals who are subject to CFSP sanctions will be able to challenge these in court. Individuals can already challenge economic sanctions to which they are subject and the Government welcome this closing of the gap in the judicial protection of the individual.

The Maastricht treaty established that the Union should define a CFSP covering all areas of foreign and security policy. The treaty of Lisbon reconfirms that the CFSP shall cover all areas of foreign policy and all questions related to the Union's security. It further specifies that the CFSP shall be defined and implemented by the European Council and the Council.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193901]

Derek Twigg: Payments made to Ipsos Mori, under the name of Market and Opinion Research International Ltd. by the Ministry of Defence in the last 24 months are shown in the following table.

Market and Opinion Research International Ltd.

£

	Financial year	
Purpose	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
The provision of Tri-Service Recruit Trainee Survey	177,056	240,112
Other services, mainly locally provided	119,340	161,900
Total	296,396	402,012

Information on the other services, which are mainly locally provided, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have served *(a)* one tour, *(b)* two tours and *(c)* three tours and more in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [190602]

Des Browne: These data are not currently held in the format requested. Officials are working to collate this information from a number of sources. I will therefore write to the hon. Member.

Massareene Barracks

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future role of Massareene Barracks in Antrim. [194608]

Derek Twigg: 38 Engineer Regiment will relocate to Massereene Barracks in August 2008. HQ NI and 38 (Irish) Brigade is currently reviewing its longer term basing plan. This review will consider the longer term role of Massereene Barracks.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 24 January, about the Porton Down Servicement Nerve Gas volunteers (Ref: MC00706/2008). [194677]

Derek Twigg: I will now reply to the hon. Member imminently.

Navy: Data Protection

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what contact he has made with the devolved administrations to ensure that child protection measures are in place to protect anyone under 18 whose data were on the laptop recently stolen from a Royal Navy recruiting officer; [181586]

(2) what steps have been taken to ensure that anyone under 18 whose data were on the laptop recently stolen from a Royal Navy recruiting officer are protected from harm by child protection measures. [181588]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The Department takes very seriously any loss of personal data. My statement on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1225-27 informed the House of the package of measures, reviews and investigations completed or under way to safeguard information held by the Ministry of Defence. Such measures are supplementary to the existing policies and procedures.

As I explained in the House on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1235 the loss was a matter for my Department and the UK Government and that if any issue required the involvement of the devolved Administrations they would be told.

In addition, the Department has taken action to assist all those, wherever they live, whose personal data may have been compromised. This includes verification of identity and careful scrutiny to protect personal data from unauthorised access or unlawful processing, including providing banks with the account details (where they were held) in order that the banks can monitor accounts for unauthorised activity. Officials are also in contact with the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Border and Immigration Agency. These measures are designed to protect the personal data of all individuals including those aged under 18. The individuals whom the Department has contacted have also been warned to be vigilant concerning unexpected contacts.

Nuclear Weapons: Materials

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Atomic Weapons Establishment has received information from the US on a special material known in the US as Fogbank; and if he will make a statement. [194506]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

RAF Halton: Complaints

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2850W, on RAF Halton: complaints, how many individuals lodged complaints in each year from 2003 to 2007; and from how many different addresses such complaints originated in each such year. [193827]

Derek Twigg: Data are not held centrally on the number of individuals who have lodged complaints with the Ministry of Defence or Headquarters Air Command known as—(Headquarters Personnel and Training Command before April 2007) regarding flying activity at RAF Halton and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the number of individuals who have made complaints or inquiries regarding flying activity directly to RAF Halton are more readily available and can be found in the following table.

	Number of complaints received by RAF Halton regarding flying activity in each year	*Number of individual complainants*
2003	30	25
2004	133	55
2005	112	62
2006	17	13
2007	38	19

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what obligations in international law on the UK will be created by *(a)* Article 11(3) and *(b)* Title V of the Treaty of Lisbon; and how they will be enforced. [191943]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The duty of loyal co-operation as described in Article 11(3) (Article 24(3)) in the consolidated version of the treaties (as amended by Lisbon) is not new. It was introduced by the Maastricht treaty and it has not prevented the UK from pursuing its own foreign policy when required to. The language is identical to that currently used in Article 11(2) of the EU treaty with the addition of the phrase that member states "shall comply with the Union's action in this area". The latter is a statement of the obvious point that when—and only when—member states decide on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) action they must abide by what they agree—a point which is already reflected in current EU treaty provisions on the CFSP.

Title V of the treaty of Lisbon sets out the general provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the CFSP. The CFSP will remain intergovernmental: when EU members all agree, we act together, but where we do not, the UK acts independently.

The European Court of Justice will not have jurisdiction over the CFSP, except for those limited areas set out in the answer I gave to the hon. Member today (UIN 191936). And the Commission will not be able to commence infraction proceedings against member states under Title V.

UK Atomic Energy Authority: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has held with the Health and Safety Executive on the reporting of abnormal incidents at Atomic Energy Authority sites at *(a)* Aldermaston and *(b)* Burghfield. [194885]

Des Browne: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield are owned by the MOD. The nuclear site licensee is AWE plc, which manages these sites under Government Owned/ Contractor Operated arrangements. Safety is paramount to all stakeholders. MOD officials maintain a continuous dialogue with AWE plc and the external regulator, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which is part of the Health and Safety Executive. This dialogue covers all AWE regulatory matters, including the reporting of abnormal incidents.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the question tabled on 4 February 2008 by the hon. Member for Eddisbury on Wikipedia (185529). [195200]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member today.

WALES

Brofiscin Quarry: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has received *(a)* evidence of and *(b)* representations about (i) cattle dying, (ii) deformed cattle foetuses and (iii) ill health of local residents related to toxic landfill at Brofiscin Quarry. [193513]

Mr. Paul Murphy: This matter is within the devolved responsibility of the Welsh Assembly government. However, I understand, in the course of its investigations at Brofiscin Quarry under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Environment Agency has collected and received a significant amount of information about the site. This has included information relating to cattle mortality and deformed cattle foetuses reported in the vicinity of the site in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The Environment Agency has received correspondence from a local resident about potential ill health effects related to Brofiscin Quarry. It is the responsibility of the Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough council to investigate and respond to public health related matters.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the quantity of each contaminant in Brofiscin Quarry. [193514]

Mr. Paul Murphy: This matter is within the devolved responsibility of the Welsh Assembly government. However, I understand, the Environment Agency has not made an estimate of the quantity of each contaminant present at Brofiscin Quarry. The contaminants present at the site were deposited in the late 1960s and originated from several different sources. The area of the site which has been determined under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (approx 1.26 hectares) contains an estimated 72,000m^3 (assuming an average thickness of 5.7m) of mixed waste products.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date *(a)* his Department was made aware of the illegal dumping of toxic waste at Brofiscin Quarry, *(b)* the Environment Agency began their investigations, *(c)* Monsanto provided details to his Department of the substances they placed in the quarry, *(d)* details of contaminants were provided by Gwnwg Gowan and *(e)* his Department was made aware of the research conducted by ICI laboratories in Brixham, Guelph University (Canada) and the National Water Quality Laboratory in Duluth; and if he will make a statement. [193515]

Mr. Paul Murphy: *(a)* All records relating to the former Welsh Office on this issue have been transferred to the Welsh Assembly government. However, I understand that the Welsh Office was aware of the contamination in 1975 from a report prepared by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory on behalf of the then Department for the Environment.

(b) In March 2005 the Environment Agency began its investigations of Brofiscin Quarry pursuant to the provisions of part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 following designation of the site under the Act as a 'special site' by Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough council. The Environment Agency has been involved in site investigations at Brofiscin Quarry since 2001.

(c) The Environment Agency has, in the course of its inquiries, contacted many individuals and companies. Monsanto has, at various stages in the investigation, provided the Environment Agency with information relating to its involvement with the site.

(d) and *(e)* Mr. Douglas Gowan has provided the Environment Agency with a significant amount of information on a wide range of issues relating to Brofiscin Quarry since early 2006. This has included details of contaminants and research laboratories.

Citizenship

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the recommendations in Lord Goldsmith's report on Citizenship: Our Common Bond, on Wales. [194886]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Government welcomes Lord Goldsmith's Review of Citizenship and its contribution to the current debate about modernising our constitution to reflect the world as it is now.

This is an important step towards clarifying the legal and social rights and responsibilities that come with British Citizenship. While we may not agree with everything in the report, there is much here which is interesting.

It is too early to say what implications this review could have for Wales.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and (c) Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193539]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The cost to my Department, of overnight accommodation, for the last 12 months is:

Civil servants

Mainland GB: £23,266.50

Republic of Ireland: £167.72

Other countries: £732

Special advisers

Mainland GB: £1,567

Republic of Ireland: £83.86

Ministers

Mainland GB: £1,298.74

Republic of Ireland: £83.86

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193554]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No Wales Office staff are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions, but a small number of staff are buying added years through deductions from pay.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194973]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194316]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Local Government

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of the arrangements for the distribution of powers between the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh local authorities. [194896]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office was fully involved in discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government during the passage of the Local Government Bill in the last session. Ongoing discussions take place both at official and ministerial level and Wales Office Ministers meet regularly with both the Assembly Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr. Brian Gibbons AM and the Welsh Local Government Association.

OLYMPICS

Ministers: Visits

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which constituencies she has visited in Greater London since her appointment as Minister for London; and if she will make a statement. [194154]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2781W. Since that answer, visits or meetings have also taken place in the constituencies of Croydon, Central and Twickenham.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has set baselines or targets in order to assess the legacy effect the 2012 Games will have on *(a)* sporting participation, *(b)* regeneration, *(c)* tourism and *(d)* business in the UK; and how she plans to measure those effects. [193690]

Tessa Jowell: Work is taking place to develop the baseline and targets for the indicators in both Public Service Agreement 22 (Deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport), and the Legacy Action Plan.

The forthcoming Legacy Action Plan will provide more information on our ambition for the legacy effect the 2012 games including the effects on sports participation, regeneration, tourism and business in the UK, and the programmes that will deliver those benefits.

An evaluation framework is being developed to ensure that the legacy effects of the games can be measured in a coherent and co-ordinated manner.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what studies she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* plans to commission to assess the legacy effects of the 2012 Olympic Games on (i) sporting participation, (ii) regeneration, (iii) tourism and (iv) business in the UK. [193691]

Tessa Jowell: Prior to London winning the bid, a number of studies were commissioned to provide a range of independent opinions and to aid the development of Government policy in ensuring a UK legacy. These preliminary studies include the Olympic Games Impact Study produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Arup study.

In June 2007, we published our Legacy Promises, which include commitments on sporting participation, regeneration, tourism and business. Since then, we have conducted quantitative and qualitative research to test our legacy plans, and consulted stakeholders widely, including the nations and regions and other Departments. The policies worked up following this will be published shortly in the Legacy Action Plan.

An evaluation framework is being developed to ensure that the legacy effects of the games in all key areas are captured and measured effectively.

Olympic Games 2012: Young People

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the London Youth Games will be able to use the Olympic facilities during their testing phase; and what provision has been made for the London Youth Games in the Olympics legacy. [194514]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* LOCOG has not yet considered which events will be staged at the Olympic Park for the programme of test events leading up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

The Olympic Stakeholders are committed to long-term elite and community use for the Olympic Park facilities after the 2012 games. I understand the London Development Agency, as the interim client for the site, are considering how events such as the London Youth Games can be factored into future legacy plans.

Regeneration: Greater London

Ann Coffey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will allocate funding to regenerate street and covered markets in the East End of London as part of the hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games. [190453]

Tessa Jowell: Street and covered markets play an important part in promoting strong and vibrant communities, diversity, regeneration, and entrepreneurship in their local areas.

While there are no specific plans to allocate Olympic funding to the regeneration of street and covered markets, the Olympic programme, by its very nature, will contribute to the wider regeneration of the East End of London. I am confident that street and covered markets such as those of Spitafields, Stratford, and Walthamstow, and other such markets held in the five host boroughs, will benefit from the general uplift that regeneration will bring.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK bilateral aid programmes are in operation in *(a)* Algeria, *(b)* Egypt, *(c)* Madagascar, *(d)* Malawi and *(e)* Mali; and what the (i) duration and (ii) cost of each is. [193677]

Gillian Merron: Of the countries listed, the Department for International Development (DFID) only has a bilateral programme in Malawi. Details of DFID's spending plans for 2007-08 were published in the Departmental Annual Report 2007 which can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2007/default.asp#contents

Chad: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1091W, on Chad: overseas aid, what the objectives are of his Department's review of funding commitments; and when the review is expected to be completed. [192027]

Gillian Merron: The review of funding commitments was carried out in the wake of the attack on N'Djamena. The objective of the review was to allow the UK Government to respond appropriately to the humanitarian needs arising from the upsurge in fighting, and to develop a plan for humanitarian programming in Chad for the coming financial year. As part of the review, the Department for International Development (DFID) examined the scale of need, the effectiveness of implementing partners, coverage of the affected populations, and the focus of other donors.

Following completion of the review, DFID has committed an additional £500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to address new humanitarian need. This takes the total bilateral UK commitment to Chad to £7 million this financial year.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192509]

Gillian Merron: Six DFID employees have raised appeals to the Civil Service Appeals Board in the last 10 years as set out in the following table. DFID has no agencies which employ staff.

	Reason for dismissal	*Number of dismissals*	*Appeals upheld*	*Compensation*	*Re-instatements*
2003	All on grounds of capability	4	0	0	0
2006	Gross misconduct	1	0	0	0
2008	Gross misconduct	1	0	0	0

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193535]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of hotel accommodation without incurring a disproportionate cost. Figures are available for subsistence costs for the Department for International Development (DFID), which reflect all domestic and overseas travel for Ministers, advisers and officials and include costs for all travel, accommodation and subsistence. The cost for the last 12 months was £10,870,388.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192100]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continues to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK. In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented. In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate Departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

A Gender Equality Action Plan, launched in March 2007, set out how we will strengthen our focus and impact on gender equality across all our work. Gender equality issues are reflected as a target within DFID's first Departmental Strategic Objective for 2008-11.

Department for International Development (DFID) resources are allocated in line with our departmental strategic priorities.

Departmental Sick Leave

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187874]

Gillian Merron: For the calendar year 2007, 6.7 per cent. of total working days lost to sick absence were related to stress or stress related conditions.

HIV Infection: Drugs

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking on flexibilities in the World Trade Organisation's Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement to deliver affordable generic medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. [194701]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government support the right of developing countries to utilise flexibilities in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and in particular to facilitate access to cheaper medicines, including for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. This includes the right to produce, export or import generic medicines under a compulsory licence.

The Department for International Development has also financed a number of organisations including the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) to provide support to developing countries to make better use of their TRIPS flexibilities, including compulsory licensing.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by his Department towards meeting the G8 commitment to universal access to treatment for HIV and AIDS by 2010; and what funds his Department has allocated to furthering progress in the next two years. [194702]

Gillian Merron: By the end of 2006, more than 2 million people in developing countries were taking anti-retroviral treatment—up from 100,000 in 2001. Progress towards universal access will be assessed during 2008 at the high level meeting on AIDS.

The UK remains fully committed to ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and is the second largest Government funder of AIDS-related assistance in the world. Last September the UK made an unprecedented long-term commitment to provide up to £1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) up to 2015.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* development and *(b)* humanitarian aid to Kenya his Department (i) provided in each of the last five years and (ii) has provided since the elections. [194522]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

	£ million
Development aid	
2003-04	25.3
2004-05	29.9
2005-06	45.5
2006-07	52
2007-08	50
Humanitarian aid	
2003-04	0.229
2004-05	5.517
2005-06	16.577
2006-07	13.240
2007-08	[1]5.7

[1] Of which 2.226 since elections.

Since the election crisis the Department for International Development (DFID) has made no payments to the Kenyan Government. DFID has provided over £2 million of humanitarian assistance and £3 million of development aid to organisations such as Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres Belgium.

DFID Kenya's programme continues to be under review.

Mothers: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage developing countries to assist mothers in protecting their babies from the impact of HIV. [192356]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* The UK Government are working to strengthen health systems to ensure that women in poor countries have access to high quality ante natal, maternity and family planning services, so that they can protect their babies from the impact of HIV.

In developing countries there are significant gaps in the provision of these services and the UK Government are working to ensure that women in poor countries have the same choices as those in the developed world.

The International Health Partnership, which was launched by the Prime Minister in September 2007, will help to ensure that donor resources are better co-ordinated, that they back strong national health development plans and that they focus on strengthening the health systems to deliver better services.

Mozambique: Overseas Aid

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided to Mozambique in the last 12 months. [194781]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development provided £56.3 million of bilateral assistance to Mozambique in 2006-07. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in June 2008.

The UK's imputed share of multilateral official development assistance to Mozambique in 2005 (the latest year for which figures are available) was £31.6 million.

Namibia: Floods

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to the government of Namibia following the floods in northern and central regions of that country. [193720]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government will be providing assistance to the government of Namibia's flood relief efforts through a contribution of £50,000 to the Red Cross. The money will be spent on first aid, replacement household items and the provision of clean water for about 24,000 of the most affected people.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian impact of the fighting in Darfur in the last 12 months; what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the operations in the Jabel Moun area in Darfur by the Sudanese army in February 2008 on the delivery of humanitarian aid; what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on diplomatic steps to resolve the humanitarian situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [192637]

Gillian Merron: About 380,000 people have been displaced in Darfur since January 2007, and numbers are still rising. As a result humanitarian indicators, such as malnutrition, are starting to rise above emergency thresholds for the first time since 2004. Due to ongoing fighting, humanitarian agencies are still unable to access the Jebel Moun area.

The Prime Minister has made it clear that Darfur is a high priority for the UK. On 27 February my right hon. Friends, the Foreign and International Development Secretaries, made a joint statement that called on all parties to stop the violence; to allow immediate humanitarian access; to protect civilians; and to facilitate the deployment of UNAMID.

The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) continue to work together to resolve the humanitarian situation in Darfur and the UK Government are the second largest bilateral donor to Sudan.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of banditry on the delivery of the World Food Programme supplies to internally displaced persons in Darfur; what estimate he has made of the proportion of food aid earmarked for internally displaced people in Darfur which reached the intended destination in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [194236]

Gillian Merron: All humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur have been affected by insecurity, with implications for staff safety and aid delivery. The World Food Programme (WFP), because of its size and logistical complexity, has been particularly hard hit, with 37 food trucks hijacked since the start of the year and 23 drivers still missing. In January 2008, the last month for which data are available, WFP was unable to reach 133,000 people in Darfur, of their total target of 2 million. As a result of WFP's and other agencies' lack of access to vulnerable populations, malnutrition rates are already climbing over the emergency threshold for the first time since 2004.

UN Convention on Watercourses

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons the Government have not signed the UN Convention on Watercourses; and if he will make a statement. [194089]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has undertaken an analysis of the development benefits of UK accession to the UN Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. DFID has also discussed this with other bilateral agencies and specialist water agencies, and sought views from other Government Departments to reach a joint conclusion. On the basis of the evidence available, the development benefits identified have not been shown to be significant. After 10 years only 16 countries have ratified or acceded to the convention. With 35 countries required there is little immediate prospect of it entering into force.

DFID recognises that the existence of the convention is helpful and its principles have been applied. DFID provides support to regional water initiatives in South Asia, the Nile Basin and the Middle East and is considering support in other shared waters. In none of the cases where we provide support is accession to the convention considered necessary.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Dismissal

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who worked for each of his Department's agencies have been dismissed for gross incompetence since each agency was established. [189832]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department, and its Agencies, do not have a category of gross incompetence as a measure of performance of employees. However, there is a category of unsatisfactory work.

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007.

The information provided in the table reflects data recorded on that system for the number of staff dismissed because of unsatisfactory work performance. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

Dismissal reason unsatisfactory work performance—April to December 2007

Agency	*Number*
Child Support Agency	0
The Pension Service	3
Jobcentre Plus	5
Disability and Carers Service	0
Corporate Centre	1
Total	9

Departmental Manpower

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultations his Department held with the Public and Commercial Services Union before the announcement of the proposal to reduce its staffing levels by 12,000 in the next three years; what assessment he has made of the effect of the reductions on his Department's delivery of services; and how many of the proposed job losses will be in the North East. [191803]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department gave a full briefing to its Trade Unions prior to publication of its Three Year Business Plan 2008-2011, which covered the planned reduction in our workforce over the 2007 Spending Review period.

The Department's Three Year Business Plan 2008-2011, which was published on 28 February, also sets out the Department's assessment of how it intends to improve the service it offers customers over this period, in particular by further focusing its services on customer need. Detailed business-level planning is currently being undertaken, and at this stage it is too early to provide regional workforce plans.

Copies of the Plan have been placed in the Library of the House, or can be viewed electronically at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/3yrplan/

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191531]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of people over the age of 55 who have been recruited by the Department in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

Year ending 31 March:	*Number of recruits over age 55*
2005	435
2006	469
2007	446

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187468]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department was created in May/June 2001. In the period since 2002-03 property to a total value of £178,000 has been recorded as lost or stolen in the Department's fixed asset register. Information is not available on the cost of replacement.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his target to reduce incapacity benefit claimants by one million by 2016 is based on a projected 2016 claimant count of one million fewer people than the comparable figure in 2006. [186110]

Mrs. McGuire: The Welfare Reform Green Paper "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work" announced our aspiration to reduce the case load by one million over a decade. This will be measured against the case load in May 2005—which stood at 2.74 million. Our goal is deliberately a stretching one and was not set on the basis that we knew it would be achieved, but to support the delivery of real change over the coming years.

We have not produced a complete assessment of the expected claimant count in May 2015. Although we make projections of the case load as part of long-term planning around public finances, we are not able to fully include the impact of new or planned policies where evidence is limited. For example, the projections for incapacity benefits include estimates of the impact of the roll-out of Pathways to Work but not detailed impacts of the introduction of employment and support allowance.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families claiming income support comprised lone parents who were *(a)* divorced, *(b)* separated and *(c)* never married in each year since 1992. [194790]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. Data held on income support claims indicate whether a claimant is single or has a partner but not whether they are divorced, separated or never married.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average number was of children in lone parent families claiming income support in each year since 1992; [194791]

(2) what the average number was of children in a lone parent family making an initial claim for income support in each year since 1992. [194792]

Mr. Timms: Information on people making a claim for income support, initial or subsequent, is not available. People can make a claim but may not be eligible, or may not pursue their claim and records are not kept on the number of claims people make.

As a consequence information on the average number of children in lone parent families making a claim for income support is also not available.

Available information on the average number of children in lone parent families who are in receipt of income support is in the following table.

Average number of children in lone parent families in receipt of income support

Quarter ending	*Average number*
May 1995	1.82
May 1996	1.84
May 1997	1.85
May 1998	1.86
May 1999	1.87
May 2000	1.89
May 2001	1.89
May 2002	1.89
May 2003	1.89
May 2004	1.89
May 2005	1.88
May 2006	1.87
May 2007	1.86

Notes:
1. Data are only available from May 1995 and by quarter rather than on an annual basis.
2. Data for May 1995 to May 1999 inclusive are based on a 5 per cent. sample and subject to a degree of sampling variation. Data after May 1999 are based on a 100 per cent. sample.
3. Data are for lone parents with dependant children aged under 16.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

New Deal for Disabled People: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place for the replacement of the new deal for disabled people in Dorset after 29 April. [190591]

Mr. Timms: New deal for disabled people (NDDP) will be extended until June 2008 with existing providers in all Jobcentre Plus Pathways districts, including those in the Jobcentre Plus Dorset and Somerset district. A tendering exercise to award NDDP contracts in the same districts has been carried out and preferred bidders have been notified. We expect to announce the successful bidders by 30 May 2008. Contracts are due to commence from June 2008 for a period of two years. I welcome the hon. Member's support for this important service.

Pension Funds

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the average longevity assumption used by final salary pension schemes operating in the UK. [192335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on which to base a reliable estimate of the average assumptions relating to longevity used in actuarial valuations of final salary pension schemes is not available. Some limited information about the assumptions used is available from the regulator's analysis of the first tranche of 1,292 scheme funding recovery plans, which was published on 26 September 2007. The assumptions about life expectancy at age 65 used in the majority of these recovery plans was 21.9 years for men and 24.8 years for women. This information only relates to schemes where a valuation was completed between September 2005 and April 2006, however, and is not a reliable indicator of the position for all schemes, or of the current behaviour of trustees in choosing assumptions about longevity now. It is not for the Government to tell trustees what assumptions to make on longevity.

On 18 February the pensions regulator published a consultation document inviting views on proposed new guidance for trustees on choosing the assumptions about longevity to be used in actuarial valuations of their scheme. The document reflects emerging evidence which suggests to the regulator that past allowances for future improvements in life expectancy have not always been adequately taken into account, and the consultation period will last until 12 May.

Pension Service: Complaints

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Pensions Service, *(c)* Jobcentre Plus, *(d)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(e)* the Health and Safety Commission and Executive, *(f)* the Child Support Agency, *(g)* the Rent Service and *(h)* the Debt Management Service received in each of the last 10 years. [185894]

Mrs. McGuire: Centrally, the Department for Work and Pensions does not separately identify complaints from other forms of correspondence. Each of the Department's agencies and customer facing units has its own complaint handling procedures. The available information for each agency is in the tables.

The information is not indicative of the number of individual complaints as each piece of correspondence, or where appropriate, telephone call, is recorded separately.

The Pension Service was formed in April 2002.

Complaints received by the Pension Service

	Number
2002-03	6,558
2003-04	38,957
2004-05	28,700
2005-06	29,139
2006-07	20,176
2007-08 (to January 2008)	11,817

Jobcentre Plus was formed in April 2002.

Complaints received by Jobcentre Plus

	Number
2004-05	34,430
2005-06	33,350
2006-07	43,214
2007-08 (to December 2007)	33,790

The Disability and Carers Service was first formed in 2002 as the Disability and Carers Division; it became an agency in November 2004.

Complaints received by Disability and Carers Service

	Number
January 2002 to March 2002	[1]2,240
April 2002 to March 2003	[1]7,517
April 2003 to March 2004	[2]9,471

Complaints received by Disability and Carers Service

	Number
April 2004 to March 2005	[2]11,111
April 2005 to March 2006	[2]6,732
April 2006 to March 2007	[3]7,208
April 2007 to December 2007	[4]2,268

[1] Total is customer complaints only.

[2] Total is of customer complaints, MP complaints and inquiries, and public inquiries to senior officials.

[3] Total is customer complaints, MP complaints or inquiries, and public inquiries to senior officials to December 2006. From January 2007, only customer and MP complaints are included.

[4] Total is customer and MP complaints only.

The Health and Safety Commission and Executive does not maintain central records of complaints about the organisation

The Child Support Agency was formed in 1993 as an Executive agency of the Department of Social Security; it became an Executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001.

Complaints received by Child Support Agency

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Stage 1 complaints received (written)[1]	27,875	28,073	21,015	19,634	15,493	15,182	24,809	29,213	27,344	21,719
Stage 1 Complaints received (telephone)[1]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[3]—	7,458	10,570	10,660	7,560
Chief Executive Complaints	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	4,096	4,555	7,096	[5]—	[6]—	5,887	3,769
Treat Official Complaints[7]	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	2,609	2,869	1,344	1,521	1,108	1,278	998
MP Complaints	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	4,175	4,818	4,537	5,317	8,871	9,729	9,151

[1] Changes to how the Agency recorded stage 1 complaints over the years means that comparisons of the number of complaints received are not easily made. The Agency initially operated a two-tier complaints process to deal with escalated complaints. A third tier was introduced in 2003, see notes (5) and (6). In the year ending March 2006, 7,167 stage 1 complaints required escalation to resolve and 4,673 in year ending March 2007.

[2] While the Agency did receive stage 1 telephone complaints prior to 2002-03, their volumes were not recorded.

[3] Although 671 stage 1 telephone complaints were recorded between December 2002 and March 2003, their volumes were not recorded throughout the whole year, thus preventing meaningful comparison with later years.

[4] While the Agency did receive complaints directly to the chief executive, treat official complaints, and MP complaints to business units prior to 2000-01, their volumes were not recorded.

[5] During 2003-04, complaints sent directly to the chief executive were not recorded separately from those complaints that were escalated to him as part of the three-stage process. Therefore, although 7,183 complaints in total were received during 2003-04, it is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the chief executive directly (as opposed to those escalated via the complaints process), thus preventing meaningful comparison with data for earlier years.

[6] In April and May of 2004, the chief executive received a total of 1,435 complaints, however, is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the chief executive directly, as opposed to those escalated to stage 3 of the complaints process. From June 2004 to March 2005, after which time such complaints were recorded separately, the chief executive received 4,393 direct complaints and 2,549 complaints escalated upwards from stage 2. Again, these recording issues prevent meaningful comparison of this category with earlier years.

[7] Treat official letters are those received by a Minister from a member of the public, and referred for initial consideration to an official of the agency.

The Rent Service was formed in October 1999 as an Executive agency of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; the Rent Service became an Executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001.

Complaints received by the Rent Service

	Number
October 1999 to March 2000	0
April 2000 to March 2001	0
April 2001 to March 2002	0
April 2002 to March 2003	40
April 2003 to March 2004	59
April 2004 to March 2005	22
April 2005 to March 2006	45
April 2006 to March 2007	90
April 2007 to December 2007	63

The Department's Debt Management organisation was established in 2001 and became fully operational in February 2006. Information is not available from Debt Management prior to July 2005.

Complaints received by Debt Management

	Number of complaints dealt with during initial phone call[1]	Written complaints cleared	Written complaints received
July 2005 to March 2006	n/a	1,639	n/a
April 2006 to March 2007	2,827	2,936	n/a
April 2007 to December 2007	1,449	1,847	1,796

[1] The number cleared by phone relate to verbal complaints that were dealt with in the first instance by telephone and where the customer was completely satisfied with the outcome of the telephone call.

Pensioners: Income

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average annual income of a pensioner household in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* London in the last period for which figures are available. [190727]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on pensioner incomes cannot be provided at a lower level than Government office region, averaged over three years. Latest information, based on the Family Resources Survey, relates to 2003-04 to 2005-06. This shows that the average annual net income before housing costs for all pensioner units in London was £15,800 in 2005-06 prices.

A pensioner unit is either a single person over state pension age (SPA) or a couple where at least one member is over SPA.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK falling below the poverty threshold in (i) 2010, (ii) 2012 and (iii) 2014. [192119]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

As no single measure captures all aspects of poverty, the new public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent. median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices, all measured after housing costs.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (Revised)". The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region.

The proportion of pensioners in low income in the UK and the south east has fallen substantially over the last 10 years. Any current projection of the number of pensioners in poverty in 2010, 2012 and 2014 would be subject to uncertainties around future income growth, changes in the income distribution and individual changes in behaviour in response to policy changes. The Government therefore do not publish forward projections.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of running the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority in each year until it is replaced by the Personal Accounts Board. [193969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost of running the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority in 2007-08 is expected to be £13.7 million. The Authority is currently reviewing its costs for 2008-09 and beyond in the light of its re-planning exercise and as part of the Department's budget-setting round.

Personal Care Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Health and Safety Laboratory will publish its report on health issues for technicians employed in nail bars. [19[illegible]46]

Mrs. McGuire: The research report, Health and Safety in Nailbars (CWH/07/05), has been cleared for open publication on the research publications area of the HSE website, and it is anticipated that the report will published on the site around the end of April.

Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what purpose his Department records individuals' political opinions; [177307]

(2) whether his Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* benefit recipients. [179363]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answers 10 and 15 January 2008]:* Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code, and section 4.4 of the Civil Service Management Code. These cover involvement in political activities and may require records to be kept.

The Department for Work and Pensions has no policies or practices which require benefit recipients' political opinions to be recorded. These will only feature in records where they have been voluntarily included by the individual in conducting their business with the Department and it is necessary for unrelated business reasons that the documents be retained.

Poverty: Children

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the Government's policy is on the elimination of child poverty by 2020; [194955]

(2) whether the Government have amended its target to reduce child poverty by half its 1999 level by 2010. [194956]

Mr. Timms: On 12 March 2008 the Government reaffirmed their commitment to halving child poverty by 2010 and eliminating it by 2020 with the publication of "Ending child poverty: everybody's business".

"Ending child poverty: everybody's business" sets out the Government's long-term strategy for achieving those targets and is available in the Library.

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191076]

Mrs. McGuire: The following plasma TV screens have been purchased on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions:

2006-07 FY—three x Plasma TVs—costing £2,263.86

2007-08 FY—nine x Plasma TVs—costing £4,724.66

Information prior to 2006-07 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Dyspraxia

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for *(a)* adults and *(b)* graduates who are unemployed as a result of (i) dyspraxia and (ii) other neuro-divergent conditions. [193284]

Mrs. McGuire: Adults, including graduates, living with dyspraxia or other neuro-divergent conditions are able to make use of the mainstream job placing services provided by Jobcentre Plus. For those who cannot be helped by these mainstream services, however, Jobcentre Plus provides a range of specialist disability measures via disability employment advisers and incapacity benefit personal advisers.

People with dyspraxia or other neuro-divergent conditions may make use of the Access to Work programme if they need help with the additional costs caused by their disability, or with travelling to work. They can also be helped by a support worker in a number of ways, for example as a job coach, mentor, advocate or counsellor.

The WORKSTEP programme of supported employment can also provide tailored support to find, and retain, jobs for people with disabilities who face more complex barriers. WORKSTEP provides the opportunity for people to progress to open employment where this is the right option for the individual. Longer-term support continues to be available for those who need it.

New deal for disabled people is a voluntary initiative offered to customers in receipt of a disability or health related benefit. A network of providers offers support and services to those on eligible benefits who want to enter work, with the aim of achieving lasting, paid employment. New deal for disabled people is available to customers across the full range of health conditions and disabilities, including those with dyspraxia or other neuro-divergent conditions.

Our successful Pathways to Work programme, currently available in 40 per cent. of the country, helps people with a range of health conditions and disabilities. Pathways to Work is primarily aimed at new incapacity benefits customers, but is also available to existing benefit customers on a voluntary basis.

People with dyspraxia or other neuro-divergent conditions may also be entitled to a wide range of other benefits.

Winter Fuel Payments

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will raise the level of winter fuel payments to take account of recent increases in energy prices. [194533]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The winter fuel payment is worth £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over. It provides a significant contribution towards the cost of winter heating bills.

Next winter, 2008-09, a one-off additional payment will be made. Households with someone aged 60 to 79 will receive an extra £50 giving them £250 and households with someone aged 80 or over will receive an extra £100 giving them £400.

Winter Fuel Payments: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on winter fuel payments in each local authority area in Hampshire in each of the last five years; how many payments were made in each year; and if he will make a statement. [188585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The expenditure on winter fuel payments in each local authority area in Hampshire is in the following table.

£ million

Local authorities in Hampshire	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basingstoke and Deane	3.7	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.6
East Hampshire	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.1
Eastleigh	3.2	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9
Fareham	3.4	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2
Gosport	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7
Hart	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7
Havant	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9
New Forest	6.7	7.7	8.1	8.0	8.1
Rushmoor	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
Test Valley	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9
Winchester	3.3	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1
Total	37.1	42.2	43.9	44.3	45.4

Notes:

1. Totals may not sum up due to founding.

2. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

3. Winter fuel payments cannot be separated from age related payments at local authority level in 2004-05. Therefore for 2004-05 they have been estimated by assuming that the proportion of winter fuel payments expenditure falling to each local authority in Great Britain is the same as the proportion for winter fuel payments and age related payments expenditure combined.

Winter Fuel Payments: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency receive the winter fuel payment. [194047]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In winter 2006-07, 22,070 people in the Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency received a winter fuel payment. We expect the number to be similar for winter 2007-08.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

Working Age Population

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when Dame Carol Black will publish the report of her review of the health of the working age population. [192986]

Mrs. McGuire: Dame Carol and her Review Team are currently in the latter stages of analysing the evidence gathered and drafting the report. She is currently hoping to submit her report to Ministers later this month.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Pupils

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on improving access to the arts for school pupils; and if he will make a statement. [193753]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* We are committed to working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on improving access to the arts for school pupils.

On 13 February 2008 we announced a £25 million Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of offering children and young people a range of high quality cultural experiences for five hours a week, in and out of school.

We have published a prospectus seeking applications from partnerships in local areas around the country, setting out a core range of activities we believe young people should be able to engage with. We are looking for innovative bids that will test different ways of delivering a range of cultural opportunities over the next three years, including ways of ensuring all children are able to experience at least five hours. The pilots will give us the information we need to make decisions about rolling out the offer nationally.

These pilots will build on the considerable amount of cultural activity already taking place in and out of school and the investment we put into this area. For example we recently announced that we will invest a further £110 million to expand the successful Creative Partnerships programme over the next three years so that it works with more than 2,000 schools per year.

Arts: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to improve access to the arts in Warrington. [193750]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* Government investment and support for the arts is primarily channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). Overall arts funding has increased in real terms by 73 per cent. since 1998 and in 2007-08 ACE received £412 million.

ACE North West has allocated the following funding to arts organisations in Warrington in the past three years:

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Individuals	3,000	4,988	4,290
Managed funds	34,200	13,000	12,000
Organisations	41,549	60,725	34,338
Regularly funded organisations	29,213	29,948	0

ACE North West has contributed £12,000 to the local arts strategic fund (LASF) for 2007-08 and is working closely with Warrington borough council.

Culture

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cultural events he has attended in his official capacity since taking office. [193752]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* Since taking office, I have attended 16 cultural events in an official capacity.

Culture: Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to provide every child with five hours of culture a week. [188845]

Andy Burnham: We are committed to working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on improving access to the arts for school pupils.

On 13 February 2008 we jointly announced a Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of offering young people a range of cultural opportunities over five hours a week in and out of school. There is already much cultural activity taking place in and out of school and the pilots will build on this, to make sure all children and young people have the opportunity to take part in cultural activities.

We have published a prospectus seeking applications from partnerships in local areas around the country, setting out a core range of activities we believe young people should be able to engage with. We are looking for innovative bids that will test different ways of delivering a range of cultural opportunities over the next three years, including ways of ensuring all children are able to experience at least five hours. The pilots will give us the information we need to make decisions about rolling out the offer nationally.

The deadline for bids is 7 April 2008. Successful applicants will be notified in May and work will begin in September 2008.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department will provide *(a)* financial or *(b)* organisational help to cultural institutions as part of the Government's policy of ensuring that every child experiences five hours of culture a week. [188846]

Andy Burnham: On 13 February 2008, we announced a £25 million Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of offering young people a range of cultural opportunities over five hours a week in and out of school.

We have published a prospectus seeking applications from a wide range of partnerships. Each partnership, which needs to include all appropriate local cultural institutions, can apply for up to £2.5 million over three years. While we would expect the majority of money to be spent directly on new activity for young people, it can also be used for skills assessments, training and continued professional development for those in the cultural sector implementing delivery. It can also be used to subsidise entry fees to local cultural institutions.

This programme builds on the Government's already considerable investment we provide to cultural institutions working in this area. This includes the support we give to enable free entry to national museums and the Creative Partnerships programme which will receive over £110 million over the next three years.

Sports: Facilities

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many delegations arranged by hon. Members he has met to discuss the provision of sports facilities since his appointment; and what the outcome of each such meeting was. [193494]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I have met one delegation arranged by an hon. Member to discuss sports facilities.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on sports facilities in smaller local communities since his appointment. [193495]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I have had no formal discussions on sports facilities in smaller local communities.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will allocate resources to the inclusion of *(a)* sporting and *(b)* cultural facilities in the Orford Project; what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of such facilities to regeneration in Warrington; and if he will make a statement. [193496]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* Community Sports Hub projects, such as the one at Orford Park, have the potential to deliver a new, innovative approach to building sustainable community multi-sports facilities. I am aware that Sport England is currently considering a lottery application for this project.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2221-2W, on bankruptcy: Greater London, when he expects figures for 2007 to be available on the same basis as earlier years. [194528]

Mr. McFadden: The following records the number of individual bankruptcy orders that have been declared in each London court in 2007. The High Court is the only court located in London with insolvency jurisdiction.

Number of individual bankruptcy orders made in the High Court, 2007

	High Court	*London OR*
2007	5,360	4,030

Notes:

1. Cases heard by the High Court are not restricted to those individuals resident or trading in the London area; they may include cases from across the country, most notably, where the petitioner is HMRC.
2. New case figures for the London Official Receivers region are also given for comparative purposes. These include cases assigned to the Public Interest Unit (PIU). They do not, however, include cases dealt with by Croydon Official Receiver, although the London Region officially has included Croydon OR from 2004-05.
3. After a bankruptcy order has been made it is possible that the case may subsequently be assigned to a different court, for various reasons. The High court figures 2007 reflect the court details recorded on an extract of the database taken in February 2008 and may, therefore, be subject to movements in both directions following the order date as far as High Court figures are concerned.
4. Individuals may also be assigned to a different official receivers office as the case progresses, perhaps because the bankrupt has moved or cases are re-allocated. The London Official Receivers' figures shown record the office assigned at the time the order was made.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192099]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender. Following these lines Departments can then highlight any specific initiatives they have been operating or funding which support the empowerment of women and promote gender equality.

Post Offices: Local Authorities

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will provide funding for local authorities to provide post office services where Post Office branches have been identified for closure. [193694]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have committed an annual subsidy of £150 million a year up to 2011 to support a sustainable post office network of around 11,500 outlets. To the extent that individual communities or local authorities wish to support additional provision above that level, that will be their financial responsibility.

Road Traffic: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the North West Regional Development Agency has had with Lancashire county council on reducing traffic congestion in Lancaster and Morecambe. [194450]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* NWDA is party to ongoing discussions between Lancashire county council, Lancaster city council and Lancaster and Morecambe Vision Board about traffic congestion in the area. The focus is a recently completed Lancaster and Morecambe Access and Transport Strategy which has reviewed current transport issues and identified possible short, medium and long-term solutions.

NWDA is also discussing with the county council and Lancaster city council specific traffic issues on the A6 south of Lancaster to Junction 33 of the M6. These discussions relate to proposals for development of the Lancaster Science Park adjacent to Lancaster university.

South East England Development Agency: Property

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA): property, what the current ownership status is of the Ropetackle site in Shoreham-by-Sea; and how much revenue SEEDA received from the Enterprise Gateway Project at Ropetackle in Shoreham-by-Sea *(a)* directly and *(b)* through its agents in each of the last two years. [194162]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* SEEDA currently owns the freehold of the Ropetackle site in Shoreham-by-Sea.

Enterprise Gateways are not generating a revenue income as they are a business service provided free of charge. We interpret the question therefore as relating to the Adur Business Centre which is located on this site.

(a) No revenue was received by SEEDA direct, as this is handled by SEEDA's managing agents.

(b) No net income has been received by SEEDA from the managing agents as running costs for the business centre to date have exceed net income. The centre has generated gross revenue of £102,685 in 2006-07 and £208,140 in 2007/-08, and is expected to yield net income from 2008-09 onwards.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average percentage of winter heating costs covered by the winter fuel allowance for those pensioners who use *(a)* liquid petroleum gas and *(b)* fuel heating oil to heat their homes in each year since 2002; and what estimate he has made of the average annual fuel costs of households using each such fuel. [193375]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through regional development agencies' single pot. [179232]

Bill Rammell: The DIUS contribution to RDA funding in 2007-08 is £44.5 million, and supplements the funding provided by the former DTI (now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform), CLG and DEFRA. The DIUS contribution to the RDA single pot across the CSR07 years is shown as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	43.416
2009-10	66.359
2010-11	65.328

Career Development Loans

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value of outstanding career development loans is; how many banks provided such loans; and what the amount of *(a)* connected contingent liabilities on the Government and *(b)* calls on these liabilities was in each of the past five years. [193225]

Bill Rammell: The current value of live Career Development Loans (CDLs) is £74,692,443[1]. Loans are offered by Barclays Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and the Co-operative Bank.

The loans are provided by banks, not by the Government. The Government do however provide support to individuals by paying interest on the loan while people are learning, and underwrites loans where individuals may be unable to repay when the loan becomes due to the bank. These costs are part of the normal operation of the CDLs programme and do not constitute a contingent liability.

[1] At Friday 7 March 2008.

Departmental Consultants

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been paid by his Department in consultancy fees since its establishment. [171892]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. Since its inception, the Department has operated a devolved procurement structure for consultancy contracts. There is no central register of contracts let and information on consultancy fees is not held separately for DIUS for prior years, therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £2,721,925 on consultancy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181883]

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179037]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. DIUS operates a devolved procurement structure for consultancy contracts. As such there is no central register of contracts let. Information on this type of expenditure is not held separately for DIUS for prior years therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £2,721,925 on consultancy.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170250]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190759]

Bill Rammell: As a result of the machinery of government changes announced on 29 June 2007, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established to lead work to deliver the Government's long-term vision to make Britain one of the best places in the world for science, research and innovation and to ensure that the UK has the skilled workforce it needs to compete in the global economy. It therefore became responsible for a number of the commitments and actions set out in the Disability Equality Schemes published by the former Department for Education and Skills and Department for Trade and Industry in December 2006.

DIUS is currently developing a new Single Equality Scheme which will cover its approach and respond to its duties under the disability equality duty. An interim scheme will be published shortly, forming the basis for further public consultation. The final version of the scheme will be published later this year.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180209]

Bill Rammell: Of the 23 Freedom of Information requests received by the former DfES element of DIUS and the eight requests received by the former DTI element of DIUS, none of the responses met the triggers for publication in a Disclosure Log. Triggers include whether responses are likely to be of interest to the wider public.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189780]

Bill Rammell: All staff, subject to line management agreement and the provision of relevant equipment are able to work from home. The Departmental strategy is to have a fully flexible working environment and there is guidance for staff about home working and other forms of flexible working. Almost all staff are equipped with laptops configured to access DIUS systems remotely. However, records are not maintained of the number of people working from home and a trawl to obtain details of all home working would involve disproportionate cost

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185272]

Bill Rammell: The information is as follows:

(a) Zero.

(b) Zero.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191272]

Bill Rammell: Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created on 28 June 2007. Since then six impact assessments have been completed. This figure includes impact assessments conducted by the National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the Intellectual Property Office, as agencies of the Department.

From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182721]

Bill Rammell: The Department was created as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007 and employees have yet to complete a full year in which their performance will be reviewed for pay purposes. Consequently, no bonus payments have been awarded yet.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169038]

Bill Rammell: DIUS was created by machinery of government changes in July 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills.

As a consequence the Department has not yet existed for the specified periods of 12 and 24 months. At this point staff turnover has not been analysed by the new Department as the systems are not yet in place to do so reliably. The Department is undertaking a project to move to a shared services HR Data platform, and, as soon as this project is completed, will be in a position to analyse and provide such data. Until such time, the collection of the required data would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [188066]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on this type of hospitality expenditure is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171414]

Bill Rammell: The Department employs 783 staff in a wide variety of roles. It was formed as part of the 28 June 2007 machinery of government changes, taking in staff from the former Department for Education and Skills and Department of Trade and Industry. The following table sets out the numbers and proportions of men and women now employed in each of the general salary bands (percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number):

Grade	*(a) Men*	*Proportion men (percentage)*	*(b) Women*	*Proportion women (percentage)*	*Total*
Administrative Assistant	1	1	0	0	1
Administrative Officer	37	5	44	6	81
Executive Officer (EO) and equivalents	45	6	74	9	119
Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and equivalents	92	12	127	16	219

Grade	(a) Men	Proportion men (percentage)	(b) Women	Proportion women (percentage)	Total
Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and equivalents	64	8	51	7	115
Grade 7 and equivalents	85	11	75	10	160
Grade 6	24	3	17	2	41
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	33	4	13	2	46
Special Adviser	1	1	0	0	1
DIUS total	382	49	401	51	783

Staff undertake a wide variety of duties in support of my Department's objectives, including some specialist roles. Titles and roles of each position and other individual information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but I can add the following further information on the work force: the average age of employees across the Department is 41. 50 employees (6.4 per cent.) have identified themselves as black and minority ethnic (BME) staff. Additionally, 255 (32.6 per cent.) have said that they prefer not to say or have not yet declared an ethnicity.

For staff at Grade 6 and below there is a non-consolidated bonus structure that varies according to pay agreements but is negotiated annually with the trade unions and follows Cabinet Office central guidance. For all SCS staff the bonus arrangements are determined centrally by Cabinet Office. Staff in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills participate in the general Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) determined by Cabinet Office. The PCSPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. Expenses are claimed according to central and departmental guidance available to all staff. Information on individual expenses claimed in each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188798]

Bill Rammell: The Department was created as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007 and comprises employees transferred from the two previous Departments: the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills. On transfer, the employees have retained their previous salary scales pending a common range being agreed. The current salary ranges are contained in tables which have been placed in the Libraries.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership contracts his Department is party to. [190235]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. The Department does not have any private finance initiatives nor public-private partnership contracts.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* value and *(b)* start date was of each private finance initiative project approved by his Department in each of the last three financial years. [190795]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Department has no PFI schemes and hence has not approved any in the last three financial years.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's new estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174998]

Bill Rammell: Near cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources, which includes both near cash and non-cash, for each section in the "Part II: Subhead detail" table of our new supply estimate as follows. The split between near cash and non-cash could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Subhead detail

		£000
	RfR1:	
	Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)	
	Central Government spending	
A	**Activities to Support all Functions**	71,376
B	**Higher Education**	155,721
C	**Higher Education Support for Students**	2,335,083
D	**Further Education, Skills and international Programmes**	264,331
E	**Further Education Receipts from DCSF**	-5,186,025

Subhead detail

		£000
F	Science, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer	354,377
	Support for Local Authorities	
G	Higher Education Fees and Awards through Local Education Authorities	1,000
H	Further education receipts from DCSF to support sixth forms	-2,022,981
I	Science and innovation Knowledge transfer	4,191
	Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	
	Central Government spending	
J	Loans to Students	-515,000
	Non-Budget	
K	Higher Education Funding Council for England	6,868,992
L	Office for Fair Access	500
M	Student Loan Company	43,762
N	Investors in People UK	5,103
O	Learning and Skills Council	11,132,384
P	Sector Skills Development Agency	66,638
Q	Quality Improvement Agency	107,567
R	Design Council	6,892
	RfR2	
	Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)	
	Central Government spending	
A	The Royal Society	41,072
B	Royal Academy of Engineering	9,752
C	British Academy	21,385
D	RB Initiatives	6,000
E	Science and Society	11,395
F	Knowledge Transfer	19,000
G	Science Research Investment Fund	62,390
H	Research Base Administration Costs	3,500
I	GO-Science Group Administration Costs	5,000
J	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	-1,000
	Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	
	Central Government spending	
K	Research Councils' Pension Scheme	27,400
	Non-Budget	
L	Arts and Humanities Research Council	106,343
M	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	382,930
N	Economic and Social Research Council	135,018
O	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	720,000
P	Medical Research Council	526,516
Q	Natural Environment Research Council	354,541
R	Science and Technology Facilities Council	568,866
S	Fees Payable under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986	175
T	Higher Education Funding Council for England	366,970
	Total Net Resource	17,061,264

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which groups received funding from his Department and its predecessor in 2007. [184035]

Bill Rammell: It is unclear to which groups the hon. Member is referring. Therefore it has not been possible to provide an answer to this question.

Departmental Secondment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167215]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to provide information for the full period as DIUS was created as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. There were existing secondments agreements—both in and out of the Departmental areas from which DIUS was formed—and there have been subsequent agreements. Their details are in the following table. Unfortunately, the cost cannot readily be extracted and to do so would be disproportionate.

	Secondments in	Duration	Secondment agreement-other organisation
2004	1	3 years	Leeds Metropolitan University
2005	0		
2006	1	2 years	Hertfordshire County Council
2007	1	2 years	BBC
2008	1	1 year	Royal Holloway, University of London
Total	4		

	Secondment out	Duration	Secondment agreement-other organisation
2004	0		
2005	1	2.5 years	Skills for Health
2006	3	Two for 2.5 years and one for 3 years	Farming and Countryside Education, Rotherham Metropolitan Council and Students Loan Company
2007	2	1 year and 1.5 years	Higher Education Funding Council for England and British Educational Communications and Technology Agency
2008	2	1 year each	Sheffield County Council and the Sector Skills Development Agency
Total	8		

Departmental Sick Leave

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of working days lost by his Department's staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187865]

Bill Rammell: The percentage of working days lost by the Department's staff attributed to stress-related conditions during the six months from July to December amount to 15.6 per cent. of all working days lost due to sickness absence. The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, so the percentage is based on figures from 1 July to 31 December 2007 (the latest information available).

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support all employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and occupational health services.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department is on course to meet the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [181324]

Bill Rammell: The last published return on central Government progress on electricity from renewables and on recycling is contained within the Sustainable Development in Government Report for 2005/06. The 2006/07 report is due to be published in March 2008.

As the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills was only formed in June 2007 we were not able to take part in this return.

The Department's accommodation is located within buildings managed on our behalf by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and as such our Sustainable operations performance will be returned within their reports.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for *(a)* its whole estate and *(b)* some of its buildings. [181327]

Bill Rammell: The last published return on central Government progress on environmental management systems is contained within the Sustainable Development in Government Report for 2005/06. The 2006/07 report is due to be published in March 2008.

As the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills was only formed in June 2007 we were not able to take part in this return.

The Department's accommodation is located within buildings managed on our behalf by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and as such our sustainable operations performance will be returned within their reports.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on translation services by his Department, its predecessors, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 to date. [187989]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on this type of expenditure is therefore only available for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 at disproportionate cost. To date in 2007-08 the Department has spent £10,865.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187990]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate many of their documents and other media devices into various languages so as to provide widespread communication of information where there is an identified need. The majority of translated documentation is available in Welsh, in accordance with requirements under the Welsh Language Act, with the remaining translated into languages which include: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Somali, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese where deemed appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.

Documents available to aid innovation currently available translated into Welsh are:

Patents Application Guide

Trade Mark Application

Form 1—Request for Patent

TM3—Trade Mark Application Form

DF2A—Application to Register One or More Designs

FS2—Fee Sheet

There are documents to provide information and guidance for those seeking support for university. Many are available in Welsh with the following translated into various languages:

Parent's Guide to Higher Education—Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Gujarati, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu

How to get Financial Help as a Student—Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Gujarati, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu

Get the Facts about Student Finance in England—Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali, Turkish, Vietnamese and Urdu.

Documents and media are available in different languages to help people to build upon their skills. These include:

Learning to Read and Write at Home and at School—Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Somali, Turkish and Urdu

Video Mathematics at Home and at School—Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Somali, Turkish and Urdu

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181532]

(2) how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181601]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. As there is no central departmental register of overseas visits made by officials or travel expenditure by officials both within and outside the UK, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, all official travel by the Department's officials is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the departmental handbook.

Education: Prisoners

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for how many hours a day on average a prisoner received education and training in the latest period for which figures are available. [192853]

Bill Rammell: The information in the format requested is not collected centrally.

Since the introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) planned and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), education providers are required to deliver the service set out in the 'Offenders Learning Journey' which specifies the minimum standards for education and vocational training for offenders. Data from August 2006 to July 2007 show that the OLASS contractors delivered 2,021,654 hours of 2,070,804 contracted hours, achieving 98 per cent. performance against the contract.

Industrial Health and Safety: Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on providing health and safety training for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* educational establishments for which his Department has responsibility in the last 12 months. [180358]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on health and safety training is not held centrally in this Department and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent County Council, (ii) Thanet District Council and (iii) Dover District Council in 2007-08. [183057]

Bill Rammell: The following payments were made in 2007-08:

Local authority	*Notes*	*£*
Kent County Council	Revenue payment	103,633.30
Kent County Council	Revenue payment	332

Physics: Reviews

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in which month he expects the review of physics to report. [187185]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 February 2008]*: I expect Research Councils UK (RCUK) to consider in September the report from the physics review panel, chaired by Professor Bill Wakeham.

Postal Services

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171297]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Railways

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171267]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on travel expenditure to this detail is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £117,940 on rail travel.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175319]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. Since its establishment, the Department has not had responsibility for any regulators or inspectorates.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184696]

Bill Rammell: DIUS was created by machinery of government changes in July 2008 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills.

DIUS is currently undertaking a project to define document and agree a single set of policies and procedures. Until such time as these are defined, the policies of an employee's former department (DTI/DfES) remain in force. These policies allow for staff to report any cases of harassment to line management, Trade Union representatives, a confidential counselling service or HR.

During the period in which DIUS has existed there have been no cases of complaints of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184100]

Bill Rammell: The following payments were made in those years.

		£
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council	0	0
Shropshire County Council	0	1,100
Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council	0	13,981.76

No further payments are expected to be made in 2008-09.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which three teaching disciplines had the highest number of graduates in each of the last 10 academic years. [189311]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the qualifications of teachers in the subjects they teach in secondary schools is collected in the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey. This is an occasional survey for which the latest information available is from 2002. The following table provides the number of teachers teaching each subject broken down by the proportion at each post A-level qualification level including degree. Degrees are split into those in the specific subject for those entering teaching via postgraduate (e.g. PGCE) routes and those specialising in the subject as part of specialised undergraduate teaching degree (e.g. BEd) As this is from a sample survey the actual number at each qualification level is not available.

The Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey was repeated in 2007 and the results will be published by the Department in spring 2008.

Teachers in service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

	Percentages						
	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other qual.*	*No qual.*	*Total teachers (thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30 ± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (degree) to right (other qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Tolls

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on congestion charges in 2007. [178195]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. As information on congestion charges paid is not collected centrally in the Department, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Vocational Training: Prisoners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what skills audits have been carried out on prisoners since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [191212]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Prison Service Order 0550 requires that every prisoner's literacy, numeracy and skills needs are assessed as part of the induction programme put in place soon after entering custody. The results of this assessment inform the offender management process and contribute to the fuller assessment of learning needs to inform an individual learning plan. In public prisons, that fuller assessment is carried out by the provider appointed by the Learning and Skills Council.

The offender learning and skills delivery arrangements aim to develop a learning plan that is personalised to the needs of the individual learner, subject to the constraints imposed by the secure environment. The focus of the arrangements is on the individual and there has been no general audit of the skills needs of prisoners since my Department took responsibility for the policy in 2001, although the Social Exclusion Unit's 2002 report 'Reducing Re-offending by Ex-Prisoners' drew together a number of data sources to produce an overview of the skills needs of offenders.

Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessor *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171282]

Bill Rammell: DIUS was created by machinery of government changes in July 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills.

In the period since its creation DIUS has not employed any staff between the ages of 16 and 18.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the report of 6 March by the UN Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan, what representations he has received from the United Nations on the issue of access to detention centres in Afghanistan run by international military forces; and if he will make a statement. [194183]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations from the UN regarding the Secretary-General's report of 6 March and access to detention facilities. The UK has several facilities to temporarily hold those detained before they are either released or transferred to the Afghan authorities. Relevant human rights institutions within the UN system, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission are encouraged to inspect all UK detention facilities in Afghanistan.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which detention centres in Afghanistan are run by international military forces; and to which of these centres UN officials have access. [194184]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* A number of the national military contingents operating in Afghanistan under the International Security Assistance Force, including from the UK, have facilities for temporary detention. We allow the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent access to UK facilities holding detainees and would provide access to the UN if a request was made. We do not monitor whether the UN has access to partners' facilities.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes have been made to the mandate of the incoming UN Special Representative for Afghanistan as compared with that of his predecessor; and if he will make a statement. [194185]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The terms of reference for the new UN Special Representative for Afghanistan are a matter for the UN Secretary-General. It is important that Kai Eide has strong terms of reference to carry out his vital role of co-ordinating the efforts of the international community in Afghanistan.

Burma: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to secure a universal arms embargo on the military regime in Burma. [193493]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2354W.

Burma: Asylum

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Malaysia on the provision of improved protection to Burmese asylum seekers in Malaysia by registering such applicants for asylum. [193484]

Meg Munn: Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur keeps in close contact with the local office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on issues relating to the circumstances of Burmese refugees in Malaysia.

The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Malaysia has confirmed it registers Burmese asylum applicants while their applications are being considered.

Caribbean: Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to whom official gifts were presented by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall during their visit to the Caribbean in March; who selected those gifts; what the cost of each gift was; and if he will make a statement. [192700]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2566W.

Gifts are selected by the royal household under guidelines set by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I will write to my hon. Friend as soon as the accounts for the visit have been finalised and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Statement of 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 10WS, on Pingat Jasa Malaysia, what requests to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has received since 31 January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [194599]

Meg Munn: Government Departments have received numerous representations on the subject of approval being granted for veterans to accept, but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. The committee reviewed its decision three times, on each occasion upholding the general principles which apply to the question of acceptance and wear of foreign decorations. In July 2007 it agreed that veterans would be allowed to wear the medal for main independence celebrations in Malaysia from 15 August to 8 September 2007.

Freedom of Information Act (John Williams' Document)

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on the Freedom of Information Act (John Williams' document) who authorised Mr Williams to produce the document; [188072]

(2) when the draft was written; and to whom the draft was *(a)* delivered and *(b)* circulated. [188075]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: John Williams produced his draft on his own initiative over the weekend of 7 and 8 September 2002. We have no record of to whom it was delivered or circulated.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Williams document of 2002 on Iraq weapons of mass destruction was discussed at a dossier drafting group meeting on the afternoon of 9 September 2002. [188073]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* Alastair Campbell's minute of 9 September 2002 to Sir John Scarlett is the record of the discussion that took place on 9 September 2002. A copy is available on the Hutton Inquiry website, reference CAB/6/0002-0004.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on the Freedom of Information Act (John Williams' document), if he will publish *(a)* the original file JIC Two Document Version 24 July 2002 and *(b)* other sources from which Mr Williams worked in producing his draft. [188074]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* There are no plans to release further documents.

Indonesia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits are planned to the UK by representatives of the Indonesian government during 2008. [193523]

Meg Munn: There are regular visits by Indonesian Ministers to the UK. Most recently I met Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Hassan Wirajuda, at Wilton Park on 3 March. Following the then Prime Minister's (Mr. Blair) visit to Indonesia in 2006 there is an open invitation to President Yudhoyono to visit the UK at a mutually convenient time.

Indonesia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he discussed *(a)* West Papua and *(b)* human rights with the Indonesian Minister for Finance, H. E. Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, during his visit to the UK on 14 and 15 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [193522]

Meg Munn: I met Indonesian Finance Minister, Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, in London on 15 January. I discussed with her a range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including climate change and Burma as well as the situation in Papua.

The Government's position on Papua is longstanding. We support the territorial integrity of Indonesia and do not therefore support calls for independence for Papua. We believe that full implementation of existing Special Autonomy legislation is the best way to address outstanding areas of concern and ensure the long-term stability of Papua.

The overall human rights situation in Indonesia has improved dramatically in recent years. Indonesia is opening itself up to scrutiny by the international human rights framework, including through the UN Human Rights Council's process of Universal Periodic Review. Indonesia has a flourishing free media and a parliament that is increasingly holding the government to account. However, we recognise that challenges remain, particularly in Papua. I discussed the situation in Papua and raised human rights with Papua Governor Barnabus Suebo whom I met in London on 25 October 2007. Our embassy in Jakarta monitors the situation in Papua closely and continues to support those working to improve human rights across Indonesia.

Russia: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the election of Dmitry Medvedev as Russian President. [192213]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is too early to tell what the implications of the results of the recent Russian presidential elections are. The victor, Mr. Medvedev, does not take office until 7 May, when he is expected to announce a new Cabinet, the make up of which will give a clearer sense of the direction of Russia under his leadership.

It is vital that we engage with Russia on a wide range of international objectives, such as Iran, the middle east peace process and climate and energy security. However, there are also important bilateral strains, which need to be addressed. I hope that Mr. Medvedev's presidency will provide an opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relationship with Russia.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has been informed of a date for the trial of Simon Mann. [194457]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* We are aware that the Equatorial Guinea authorities announced that the trial would begin in mid-March. We are seeking further clarification from them on this.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received an explanation for the shackling of Simon Mann by the Equatorial Guinea authorities. [194458]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* While we have raised this issue with the Equatorial Guinean authorities, we have been given no adequate explanation.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he applies in assessing whether a court procedure overseas amounts to a fair trial. [194460]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* There are a number of instruments that outline international standards in relation to the right to a fair trial, including the universal declaration of human rights and the international covenant on civil and political rights. In considering whether a court procedure amounts to a fair trial, we are guided by such instruments.

South Africa: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1707-08W, on South Africa: chemical and biological warfare, at which conferences and on what occasions UK officials and scientists had contact with South African counterparts who were subsequently identified as having worked on Project Coast; and if he will make a statement. [192702]

Dr. Howells: The information requested is not held centrally. UK officials and scientists would routinely have been present at a number of types of meetings and conferences, including those on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the negotiations leading to the Chemical Weapons Convention, chemical/biological defence and public health issues, at which South African counterparts may have been present. To identify each occasion where UK officials or scientists had contact with relevant South African counterparts would incur disproportionate cost.

Sudan: Newspaper Press

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the re-introduction of newspaper censorship in Sudan on citizens. [194237]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* We are concerned by reports that the Government of Sudan may be reverting to newspaper censorship and that an increasing number of journalists have been detained or harassed by the authorities. This would run counter to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Article 39 of the Interim National Constitution, which guarantees freedom of the media and unrestricted right to freedom of expression, reception and dissemination of information. It is particularly important that citizens have freedom of access to information in the run-up to democratic elections in 2009. The UK, and our international partners, will continue to monitor press freedoms and promotion of a reformed press law in Sudan. We regularly raise human rights issues with the Government of Sudan in the EU-Sudan Human Rights dialogue, most recently in a meeting on 13 February.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the government of South Sudan withdrawing from peace talks on Abyei. [194238]

Meg Munn [holding answer 17 March 2008]: The Government of Southern Sudan has repeatedly re-affirmed its commitment to finding a lasting resolution to Abyei. We understand the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement are in negotiations on Abyei; that a sub-committee in the presidency has been established to broker a deal; and they may be close to a final agreement. We stand ready to assist as necessary once an agreement is reached.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

70 Whitehall

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of the works at 70 Whitehall associated with planning application 06/09368/FULL; and on what date the works were completed. [193189]

Mr. Watson: The final cost of the works at 70 Whitehall associated with planning application 06/09368/FULL is not yet available as these works are still in progress.

Charities

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he plans to review the criteria for charitable status; and if he will make a statement. [194217]

Phil Hope: The Charities Act 2006 provides a statutory definition of a charity in England and Wales. To be a charity, an organisation must be established for charitable purposes only and those purposes must be for the public benefit. The Government are committed to review the impact of the public benefit requirement within three years of its coming into force. There is also a statutory requirement for a review of the operation of the Act to be underway within five years of enactment, and for the report of that review to be presented to Parliament.

Charities: Private Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make it his policy to withdraw charitable status from *(a)* private schools and *(b)* financial institutions. [194216]

Phil Hope: The Government have no policy to withdraw charitable status from any class of charity. The Charities Act 2006 provides a statutory definition of charity in England and Wales. To be a charity, an organisation must be established for charitable purposes only and those purposes must be for the public benefit. It is for the Charity Commission, as the independent registrar and regulator of charities in England and Wales, to determine whether a particular institution is, or is not, a charity.

Community Champions Scheme: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what factors he took into account in making the decision to discontinue the funding of the Community Champions scheme from April 2008; and if he will make a statement; [192035]

(2) what consultations he undertook with *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* the charity sector and *(d)* other stakeholders before making the decision to discontinue the funding of the Community Champions Scheme from 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [192037]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Contracts for this programme were issued by Government offices with a clear end date of March 2008. There was no expectation that they would be extended beyond that date. The decision to confirm that this programme would not continue beyond March was taken as part of the much larger prioritisation process in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. It was not the subject of specific consultation. The decision was informed by DfES priorities expressed through the published five-year strategy, as well as by the approach to working with local areas and funding local activity signalled in the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' in October 2006. There has been substantial consultation with the community and voluntary sector over the White Paper reforms.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the current dispute between his Department and the Professional and Commercial Services trade union over pay; and what plans he has to renew negotiations. [193240]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office and PCS are engaging constructively through regular meetings to discuss pay, job reductions and relocations, and other issues which form the current PCS civil service-wide dispute.

Homeworking: Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many home computer users are signed up to receive information from IT Safe. [191045]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The total number of users including home users signed up to receive information from IT Safe, as at 3 March 2008, is 65,963 email subscriptions.

LinkAge Plus

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the LinkAge Plus pilot schemes; and whether he plans to implement the LinkAge Plus scheme nationwide. [184896]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Warwick Business School have been commissioned to undertake an over-arching national evaluation of the LinkAge Plus pilots. The project brief is:

> To build a robust evidence base to support the case for joined up services in terms of delivering better outcomes for older people;
>
> To build an evidence base that supports the economic, as well as social, case for fully joined up/holistic services for older people;
>
> To test the limits of holistic working; and
>
> To build a body of good practice and lessons learned for other partnerships and communities so as to encourage wider application of the approach, beyond pilot sites.

In addition local evaluators have been appointed by each pilot to test the success of the projects in local terms. Their evidence will contribute to the national evaluation. A series of thematic reports will be produced during the life of the projects with a final summary report scheduled for publication by March 2009. The first thematic report—Towards a Business Case for LinkAge Plus—was published in November 2007 on the DWP website.

The current LinkAge Plus pilots will end their funded activity by October 2008. There are no plans to fund any further pilot activity beyond this date. We are already sharing lessons learned from the pilot activity in order to encourage continuing sustainable joined-up services for older people (for example through the new Social Care Reform Grant).

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what planning applications his Department has made under the Circular 1884 Procedure to Westminster City Council since May 1997. [193190]

Mr. Watson: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many branded plastic bags were purchased by the *(a)* Cabinet Office, *(b)* Government Communications Network and *(c)* Central Office of Information Network in the last 36 months; for what purpose; and at what cost in each case. [194992]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Plastic Bags: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many branded plastic bags the former Deputy Prime Minister's Office procured; and at what cost. [194993]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Social Exclusion: Elderly

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations accepted by the Government in the Social Exclusion Unit's report, A Sure Start to Later Life, on social exclusion among older people. [184897]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have made good progress on the recommendations in 'A Sure Start to Later Life'. This has included the successful roll out of LinkAge Plus pilots, the introduction of age discrimination legislation, the new PSA focused on older people (to tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being in later life), and the development of a National Housing Strategy for Older People, due to be published shortly.

The Sure Start recommendations are now being taken forward by the various strands of PSA 17 which is aimed at ensuring that the specific needs of older people are given due priority.

Voluntary Organisations: Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what progress has been made on ensuring third sector organisations providing services in Eddisbury are awarded three-year contracts; [195267]

(2) what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in Eddisbury are three-year contracts. [195268]

Phil Hope: This Government are committed to ensuring that three year funding for third sector organisations becomes the norm rather than the exception. I will be reporting on Government progress in meeting this funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three year funding from 2009 onwards.

The information requested is currently not recorded centrally.

Warwick Task Force Group Compact

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2208W, on the Warwick Task Force Group Compact, which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals attended each of the group's six meetings. [193358]

Mr. Watson: The Public Services Forum Task Group is attended by representatives from relevant Government Departments, trade unions, business and the third sector.

JUSTICE

Action for Employment

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies paid to A4E in each of the last three years. [192498]

Maria Eagle: The spend for services acquired from A4e was as follows:

Former DCA

2006-07: £41.13

Her Majesty's Prison Service

2005-06: £12,654

2006-07: £36,628

2007-08 to date: £10,311

Grand Total: £59,593

The following agencies have a nil spend in the above stated period:

Her Majesty's Court Service

Tribunals Service

National Offenders Management Service

Office of Criminal Justice reform

Office of the Public Guardian

Information on payments made by the non departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department are held by the bodies themselves under separate accounting systems. This information is not held centrally.

Cannabis

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* proceeded against, *(b)* found guilty, *(c)* fined and *(d)* imprisoned for dealing in cannabis in 2006. [193579]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number of people proceeded against, found guilty, fined and imprisoned for supply and possession with intent to supply, of cannabis are found in the following table.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, fined and given a custodial sentence for supplying or intending to supply cannabis, England and Wales, 2006[1, 2]

Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug Class C Cannabis and Cannabis resin	Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sec.4(3)	550	321	18	80
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply Class C Cannabis and Cannabis resin	Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sec. 5(3)	1,444	837	27	199
Total		1,994	1,158	45	279

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS OCJR - Ministry of Justice

Crime: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for wildlife crimes there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [188573]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1996	117	77
1997	166	110
1998	106	70
1999	125	70
2000	113	64
2001	140	96
2002	104	64
2003	110	63
2004	135	96
2005	108	66
2006	190	130

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administr[illegible]ve data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Deer Act 1991

Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997

Conservation of Seals Act 1970

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for p[illegible]ons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year [illegible]00. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Dangerous Driving: Reoffenders

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted for the first time of dangerous driving in the last 10 years subsequently committed a second offence of dangerous driving; and if he will make a statement. [193738]

Mr. Hanson: Data from the police national computer shows that in England and Wales between 1997 and 2006 43,863 offenders were convicted for the first time of dangerous driving. Of these, 3,769 were also convicted on at least one later occasion between 1997 and 2006 of dangerous driving. These figures have been derived from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Holloway Prison: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disciplinary hearings have taken place as a result of the investigations following the death in custody of Lyndsey Wright in February 2005 at HM Prison Holloway; what the outcomes of the hearings were; and how much they have cost. [193746]

Maria Eagle: I am not able to reply substantively to this question as the inquest into the death of Lyndsey Wright has not yet been held and information of this type could prejudice inquest hearings.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of trafficked children who were transferred from adult prisons to the juvenile secure estate following a re-determination of their age assessment in the last three years. [182647]

Mr. Hanson: Neither the Prison Service nor the Youth Justice Board, which has responsibility for placing young people in the under-18 secure estate, is aware of any such transfers during the period in question.

Land Registry: Retirement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff aged 64 years or more in the Land Registry *(a)* in Peterborough and *(b)* elsewhere have been offered the option to continue to work beyond 65 years of age in the current financial year; and if he will make a statement. [194463]

Mr. Wills: In the current financial year, 67 members of Land Registry became or will become 64 years of age, of whom five are Peterborough staff. Of these, nine have applied to continue working for Land Registry beyond 65 years of age, including one from the Peterborough Office. To date, no application has been approved.

Under The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, which came into effect on 1 October 2006, all Land Registry staff approaching the age of 65 have an entitlement to request to work beyond the age of 65. The Human Resources department actively remind staff of this entitlement about six months before the age of 65 is reached.

Magistrates Courts: Telford

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals under the age of 21 years appeared before magistrates in Telford in each of the last five years. [193904]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants aged under 21 who were proceeded against at Telford magistrates court from 2002 to 2004 are shown in the following table. From 1 January 2005 Telford magistrates court was merged with Bridgnorth magistrates court to form Telford and Bridgnorth local justice area. It is not possible to separate those proceeded against at Telford magistrates court from those at Bridgnorth for 2005 and 2006 and combined data are provided in the following table for those years.

Number of defendants aged under 21 proceeded against at Telford magistrates court from 2002 to 2004 and at Telford and Bridgnorth[1] local justice area for 2005 to 2006[2]

	Number of defendants
2002	1,275
2003	1,076
2004	906
2005[1]	816
2006[1]	987

[1] From 1 January 2005 Telford MC was merged with Bridgnorth MC to form the Telford and Bridgnorth local justice area. Data supplied for 2005 and 2006 are for the combined LJA and separate data for Telford MC for those years are not centrally available.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Offenders: Unemployment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 469W, on offenders: unemployment, when he expects to decide on the future of the pilots; and whether he has taken advice on the continued use of this sanction in pilot areas after monitoring has ceased. [194113]

Mr. Hanson: The matter is still under consideration but I expect to announce the outcome shortly.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* other sexual offences have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales in the last three years; and how many of them remain at large. [193233]

Mr. Straw: Data are shown in the following tables for the number of prisoners convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* other sexual offences who have absconded in the last three years from open or semi-open prisons and how many remain at large at the end of February 2008.

Absconds from open prisons in England and Wales: January 2005 to December 2007

	January to December			
Offence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Murder	16	14	7	37
Rape	1	1	1	3
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0
Total	17	15	8	40

Number of absconders in the aforementioned table still at large at the end of February 2008

	January to December			
Offence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Murder	1	1	1	3
Rape	0	0	0	0
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1	3

The number of overall absconds from open prisons in the last two years has been about half the level of 1996-97

Operation Safeguard: Costs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department was invoiced for costs incurred under Operation Safeguard in each month since the start of 2008, broken down by police force; and if he will make a statement. [192966]

Mr. Straw: Police forces invoice in arrears for the cost of holding prisoners under Operation Safeguard. No invoice has yet been received from any police force for a complete month in 2008.

Police Custody: Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per night was for holding people in custody in police cells in Staffordshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [193613]

Mr. Straw: Staffordshire police have not invoiced the Ministry of Justice for the cost of holding prisoners overnight in police cells since Operation Safeguard was activated in October 2006.

However, the estimated average cost of holding a prisoner in a police cell under Operation Safeguard in England and Wales is currently in the region of £385 per night.

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what disciplinary tribunal hearings have been held following deaths in prison allegedly resulting from employee negligence against those employees; and what the outcomes were of those hearings. [193731]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by contacting all 127 public sector Prison Service establishments and manually collating their local records at a disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners who entered drug rehabilitation programmes completed those programmes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [193839]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of prisoners who entered drug rehabilitation programmes in the last 12 months and completed the programmes are given in the following table:

2006-07

	Number of prisoners
Starts	11,150
Completions	8,349
Completion rate (percentage)	74

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances warning code entries are not completed on a prison service F2050 form; and if he will make a statement. [192681]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order 0500 (Reception), which is available in the Library of the House, sets out the procedures to be followed on reception of a prisoner into prison to ensure that important information, including warning information from the Prisoner Escort Record, is appropriately recorded and made available to those staff and departments who need it. The F2050 form—the prisoner's core record—does not have any spaces for warning "codes" to be entered. There are boxes for the dates of security and medical warnings but not for codes or any further details. When a prisoner arrives at prison for the first time, parts of the prisoner core record F2050, which accompanies the prisoner, should have been completed by the escort contractor's staff. Prison reception staff also receive a Prisoner Escort Record form on which some information is recorded in the form of codes. These codes are not transferred to the F2050, but the relevant information is transferred as appropriate to either the F2050, the ACCT (self-harm) form, the cell sharing risk assessment, the prisoner's security file or inmate medical records.

Prisons: Finance

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of each public sector prison in England and Wales is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193219]

Mr. Straw: The budget of each public sector prison in England and Wales for 2007-08 is contained in the following schedule.

	Annual budget 2007-08
Acklington	17,666,396
Albany	13,107,519
Ashwell	10,597,497
Askham Grange	3,401,133
Aylesbury	13,512,514
Bedford	11,402,868
Belmarsh	38,234,000
Birmingham	30,975,252
Blakenhurst	19,975,261
Blantyre House	2,759,116
Blundeston	11,620,697
Brinsford	13,973,453
Bristol	15,315,091
Brixton	19,596,462
Brockhill	5,865,316
Buckley Hall	9,050,442
Bullingdon	20,345,395
Bullwood Hall	6,525,428
Camp Hill	12,599,555
Canterbury	7,328,984
Cardiff	16,187,411
Castington	14,441,624
Channings Wood	15,602,535
Chelmsford	17,580,402
Coldingley	10,685,001
Cookham Wood	7,000,898
Dartmoor	15,945,240
Deerbolt	14,042,762
Dorchester	7,696,367
Dover	7,362,056
Downview	10,047,807
Drake Hall	8,063,302
Durham	22,725,949
East Sutton Park	1,427,033
Eastwood Park	10,750,007
Edmunds Hill	9,351,960
Erlestoke	9,664,050
Everthorpe	13,057,290
Exeter	12,265,080
Featherstone	14,603,997
Feltham	31,875,901
Ford	8,294,655
Foston Hall	9,935,310
Frankland	37,264,000
Full Sutton	28,284,000
Garth	20,129,656
Gartree	16,331,083
Glen Parva	18,794,985
Gloucester	8,971,759
Grendon	11,875,917
Guys Marsh	11,247,989
Haslar	3,764,658
Haverigg	13,867,425
Hewell Grange	4,113,399
Highdown	21,128,790
Highpoint	14,715,826
Hindley	18,507,566
HMP Kennet	10,860,637
Hollesley Bay	6,870,046
Holloway	20,539,748
Holme House	20,431,091
Hull	21,465,696
Huntercombe	13,391,697
Isle of Sheppey Cluster	41,532,491
Kingston	6,122,900
Kirkham	13,422,817
Kirklevington Grange	4,739,835
Lancaster Castle	7,564,344
Lancaster Farms	17,480,531
Latchmere House	4,308,860
Leeds	23,539,695
Leicester	9,517,572
Lewes	13,252,775
Leyhill	10,419,733
Lincoln	15,711,598
Lindholme	19,852,472
Lindholme IND	1,494,000
Littlehey	12,512,303
Liverpool	27,631,515
Long Lartin	25,080,000
Low Newton	11,265,629
Maidstone	11,595,847
Manchester	31,670,000
Moorland	20,410,751
Morton Hall	8,568,780
Mount (The)	16,140,682
New Hall	15,641,511
North Sea Camp	5,979,[illegible]
Northallerton	5,753,312
Norwich	15,979,461
Nottingham	14,885,028
Onley	16,426,971
Parkhurst	13,685,033
Pentonville	25,732,822
Portland	15,862,406
Preston	18,486,046
Ranby	20,530,533
Reading	9,104,392
Risley	21,131,993
Rochester	10,499,024
Send	7,573,362
Shepton Mallet	5,908,133
Shrewsbury	8,379,014
Springhill	2,926,680
Stafford	14,287,211
Stocken	15,412,147
Stoke Heath	18,115,945
Styal	14,805,499
Sudbury	8,453,019
Swansea	9,821,545
Swinfen Hall	14,917,296
Thorn Cross	9,349,935
Usk	8,679,380
Verne (The)	11,368,823
Wakefield	28,344,000
Wandsworth	30,728,944
Warren Hill	9,297,316
Wayland	14,282,088
Wealstun	17,282,367
Wellingborough	13,450,622
W[illegible]ington	6,500,712
Wetherby	12,105,348

	Annual budget 2007-08
Whatton	18,129,063
Whitemoor	30,468,000
Winchester	14,573,161
Woodhill	30,301,000
Wormwood Scrubs	26,866,041
Wymott	21,887,011

The budget of each public sector prison in England and Wales for 2008-09 is still being finalised.

Prisons: Islam

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* the prisoner population, *(b)* prison officers and *(c)* prison governors have declared their faith as Muslim. [187176]

Mr. Straw: At the end of June 2006 there were 8,243 prisoners declaring themselves as Muslim in all prison establishments in England and Wales out of a total prison population of 77,982, or 11 per cent. This information can be found in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which is in the House of Commons Library and on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Information on the religion of staff within the public sector Prison Service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Sufficient information from the contracted out prisons to give a comprehensive response is similarly not available.

Data from the 2001 Census show that in the general population of England and Wales, some 1.5 million people (3 per cent.) declared themselves as Muslim.

The largest group of Muslims in prison are Asian or Asian British. Asian Muslims from the UK account for nearly 30 per cent. of all Muslims in prison.

Nationality	*Total*	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Chinese or Other ethnic group*	*Not Stated/Not recorded 1991 Census codes*
Total	8,243	1,167	484	3,652	2,660	189	91
UK	4,958	12	6	48	31	1	1
Pakistan	416	0	1	97	0	0	1
Somalia	322	0	3	5	90	1	0
Iraq	259	16	5	67	1	10	2
Turkey	221	56	6	18	0	20	0
Nigeria	185	0	1	1	98	0	0
Bangladesh	179	1	1	95	3	1	0
Algeria	179	47	14	19	14	5	1
Jamaica	163	1	2	1	95	0	1
Iran	130	16	9	67	2	7	0
Afghanistan	107	18	7	68	1	5	1
Albania	76	85	4	8	0	3	0
France	66	47	12	10	31	0	0
Serbia and Montenegro	51	77	4	4	0	12	2
Unrecorded	177	13	6	40	27	7	6
Other countries[1]	753	14	6	25	49	4	1

[1] Countries with fewer than 50 prisoners declaring themselves as Muslim are not included.

The higher number of Muslims in prison may partly reflect the age profile of prisoners. Most prisoners are aged between 18 and 34. The following table shows age group and ethnicity for 18-34 males and the proportion of the total male population.

	Total	*18-34*	*Percentage*
Male total	25,325,926	5,823,040	23
White total	23,104,290	5,155,642	22
Asian total	1,151,561	362,495	31

Prison data have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, on prisons: traveller days, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance produced by his Department and by HM Prisons Service on traveller days. [193935]

Maria Eagle: No such document exists. Traveller days are local initiatives at individual prisons and, while supported in principle by HM Prison Service, they are not mandated and there is no central prescription or guidance about how they are organised.

Probation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve standards of supervision of offenders in the community; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of changes to the funding of the Probation Service on standards in each of the next three financial years. [191916]

Maria Eagle: The National Standards for the Management of Offenders were revised in 2007 and issued by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson). Priorities and targets are set each year for the achievement of standards and mechanisms are in place for the monitoring and improvement of performance.

Priorities for achievement of these standards are identified within the annual planning cycle and targets are set by NOMS for probation areas. Compliance with the National Standards and achievement of the targets is monitored monthly based upon an analysis of a sample of case files. This process is referred to as NSMART, taking its name from the spreadsheet into which the results are entered.

The performance of each probation area is assessed and benchmarked quarterly as part of the integrated probation performance framework (IPPF). Performance reports are published quarterly. These have shown the National Probation Service consistently performing well against the standards and targets set.

Where individual areas are identified as significantly under-performing, the Probation Performance Improvement Unit in NOMS initiates a targeted improvement programme, which includes an element of sharing of best practice across probation areas, and across related sectors.

In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation conducts area-based and thematic inspections of probation practice. A national programme of offender management inspections is ongoing at present. The Inspectorate reports to the Minister. Where areas' performance is below standard, an action plan is required of the area and a 12 month follow-up inspection is conducted.

Probation areas have been informed of their budget allocation for 2008-09. Until January 2008-09 this was a flat cash allocation, but further resources were then made available amounting to a 2.7 per cent. increase to the main resource grant and an average 5.4 per cent. increase to the funding of approved premises.

The service-level agreements that specify how these resources are spent are not yet finalised.

In addition to the increased budget allocation in January, a further allocation of £40 million for 2008-09 was announced in a written ministerial statement in March 2008

> 'so that sentencers can be confident that the resources are in place to deliver effective community punishments.'

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from probation areas on resources to supervise unpaid work conditions. [192588]

Maria Eagle: Unpaid work is a successful community penalty providing a rigorous punishment and tangible benefits to communities.

A number of probation areas have expressed general concerns about the level of resources. With regard to unpaid work specifically I am aware of a short-term difficulty in responding to demand in one area (Staffordshire) earlier this year and this has now been resolved.

I have already increased funding by an average of 2.7 per cent. for 2008-09 and increased the approved premises budget by 5.4 per cent.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) announced, on 11 March, an additional £40 million to probation in 2008-09, so that sentencers can be confident that the resources are in place to deliver effective community punishments.

Probation Officers

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice *what estimate he has made of the number of trainee* probation officers qualifying in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009, who will not be offered permanent employment as probation officers. [192699]

Maria Eagle: 563 trainee probation officers are due to qualify in 2008 and a further 553 are due to qualify in 2009. It is not possible to estimate how many may or may not be offered permanent employment as probation officers as this stage.

In a letter to Chief Probation Officers on 22 February Roger Hill, Director of Probation announced that

> "...additional resources have been allocated to probation, which will have the immediate effect of securing additional staff. This additional resource is specifically to promote community orders as an alternative wherever possible to short prison sentences."

This £40 million was released to probation areas on 11 March and was in addition to the 2.3 per cent. already agreed as an increase for the financial year 2008-09.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many trainee probation officers from cohort 8 who qualified in September 2007 have not been offered employment; [194094]

(2) how many trainee probation officers from cohort 9 who are expected to qualify in September 2008 he expects will not be offered employment; [194095]

(3) how many trainee probation officers from cohort 10 who are expected to qualify in September 2009 he expects will not be offered employment; [194096]

(4) how many trainee probation officers there are in each of cohorts *(a)* eight, *(b)* nine and *(c)* 10; [194139]

(5) what was or will be the cost of training a probation officer in *(a)* cohort 8 *(b)* cohort 9 and *(c)* cohort 10. [194140]

Mr. Hanson: A breakdown of the number of trainees who have qualified or are expected to qualify in cohorts 8, 9 and 10 is contained in the following table. The table also details the number of students not offered permanent contracts as probation officers (POs) and the cost per student.

In cohort 8, 60 (13 per cent.) newly qualified POs were not offered permanent jobs as probation officers. Of these 60 trainee graduates, 35 have been offered other employment within the Nation Probation Service including fixed term PO contracts, PSO roles pending a PO vacancy or other roles within the service. 25 have left the service (some by their own volition despite being offered employment as POs).

A further 10 TPOs who qualified were originally offered temporary PO contracts which have now been made permanent.

Cohort 9 TPOs will qualify in September 2008 and cohort 10 will qualify in September 2009. For these cohorts is not yet possible to be specific about how many will be offered permanent employment as probation officers.

In a letter to Chief Probation Officers on 7 November 2007 Roger Hill, Director of Probation made explicit his expectation that areas would employ their graduating TPOs. This was reiterated in a subsequent letter on 22 February 2008 in which he announced that

> "...additional resources have been allocated to probation, which will have the immediate effect of securing additional staff."

Cohort	*Number of TPOs*	*Number not offered permanent PO contract*	*Cost of training per student (cost include university admin cost) (£)*
8	464	60 (13 per cent.)	36,167
9	563	Unknown	36,227
10	553	Unknown	37,000 (approx)

Prosecutions: Harassment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there have been for criminal harassment since 2000. [192501]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for the offence "harassment of another", under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.2(l) and (2) in England and Wales for the years 2000 to 2006 can be found in the following table. This covers all forms of criminal harassment.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the offence of harassment of another in England and Wales, for the years 2000 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Found guilty
2000	2,852
2001	2,704
2002	2,764
2003	2,907
2004	3,211
2005	3,521
2006	3,638

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] The data relate to the following statute: Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.2(l) and (2)

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Public Order Offences: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish data on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued to 10 to 15-year-olds in the six pilot police force areas; when the evaluation of the results of the pilot schemes commenced; and what steps he is taking to validate the evaluation process. [193840]

Mr. Hanson: The evaluation report will be published as soon as possible. The evaluation began once the pilots had concluded in July 2006. It is standard scientific practice for the validation of an evaluation to be undertaken by submitting the report to independent academic peer review. This was done and some amendments made to the material in line with the reviewer's comments.

Radio Frequency Identification: Privacy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been provided to public authorities by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies on the privacy implications of using radio frequency identification chips. [193843]

Mr. Wills: No guidance has been issued by central Government to public authorities on the privacy implications of using radio frequency identification (RFID) tags.

In 2006, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) released two sets of guidance on this topic. One was aimed at individuals and the other at any business or organisation (public and private) that uses or is considering using the technology. In order to address any concerns about the impact on people's privacy, the guidance outlines the technology behind the tags, their current and potential uses, and how the Data Protection Act 1998 applies.

The guidance is available on the ICO's website in its document library within the tools and resources section. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses with the permission of the ICO.

Trials: Newspaper Press

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the effect that the reporting of the outcome of trials in local newspapers has on deterring criminal activity. [192908]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice has made no assessment of this. However, current knowledge suggests that a number of factors may be important in incentivising people not to commit crime:

1. The perceived likelihood of detection and apprehension;
2. The severity of sanction; and
3. An awareness on the part of offenders and potential offenders of 1 and 2 and their ability to act on these.

The most consistently reliable evidence suggests that the CJS most effectively deters crime by increasing the likelihood, or certainty, of punishment. It is therefore possible that reporting of the outcome of trials in the local press could in principle act as a deterrent but there is no rigorous research to demonstrate this one way or the other.

Vandalism

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for vandalism in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since 2000. [193595]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group. Information is given in table 1 for Lancashire and England for the number of persons arrested for offences within the main offence group 'criminal damage'.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal damage are given in table 2. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify cases involving vandalism since both the arrest and court appearance collections are on an offence basis and do not identify the circumstances behind the offences.

Information is given in the tables for Lancashire and England. Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Table 1: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) of criminal damage[1] in Lancashire and England, by period

Period	*Lancashire*	*England*
2000-01	3,757	121,600
2001-02	4,808	120,800
2002-03	4,593	123,100
2003-04	6,036	134,500
2004-05	6,627	148,800
2005-06	7,035	156,800

[1] includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, £5,000 or less.

[2] Estimated.

Note: Every effort is made to ensure that figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1] in Lancashire and England, 2000 to 2006[2]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000		
Lancashire	1,876	1,319
England	53,080	35,322
2001		
Lancashire	2,067	1,361
England	53,541	34,734
2002		
Lancashire	2,020	1,352
England	55,681	36,337
2003		
Lancashire	2,196	1,453
England	57,099	37,979
2004		
Lancashire	1,856	1,341
England	56,347	40,220
2005		
Lancashire	1,703	1,268
England	53,635	39,933
2006		
Lancashire	2,156	1,580
England	52,736	40,333

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, 5,000 or less, and in addition offences under section 19 of the Allotments Act 122.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Liechtenstein

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the authorities in Liechtenstein on identification of British citizens seeking to evade UK taxes; and if he will make a statement. [194939]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Suffolk, Coastal (Mr. Gummer) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W.

Charities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures the Government have taken to support charities. [193341]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* The Government continue to support charities through a range of tax reliefs for charitable giving worth over £3 billion per annum.

The Budget announced a package of measures in response to the consultation on Gift Aid, including payment of Gift Aid at a transitional rate of 22 per cent. for three years.

The Government also support charities, and the third sector more broadly, through a variety of non-fiscal measures, including £515 million of investment over the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11), delivered through the Office of the Third Sector.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180576]

Angela Eagle: An updated list has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons for the Treasury and its agencies (except Office for National Statistics).

Departmental Temporary Employment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187911]

Angela Eagle: The average hourly rate per agency is commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be disclosed. Data prior to 2004-05 are not held centrally.

The overall average hourly rate per year is as follows:

	Average hourly rate (£)
2007-08	17.05
2006-07	19.25
2005-06	21.58
2004-05	20.50

Excise Duties: Shipping

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many responses have been received to the Government's consultation document, Energy Products Directive—Expiry of the Derogation for Private Pleasure Boats: Consultation on the Options for Change; and if he will make a statement; [194697]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual tax revenue that will be generated by the reduced rate of fuel duty for private pleasure boating when it is introduced from 1 November 2008, broken down by the type of vessel; and when he plans to announce the new rate of such duty; [194695]

(3) what revenue was generated from duty on red diesel in 2006-07, broken down by type of vessel and vehicle; and what revenue is forecast for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [194696]

Angela Eagle: 515 responses to the consultation were received.

A summary of responses and the Impact Assessment setting out the outcome of the consultation are available from the HMRC website. The Impact Assessment includes details of the duty rate and an initial estimate of the Exchequer impact of the changes.

Information on the revenue raised from red diesel (gas oil) is available at the UK Trade Info website at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Table 3 shows fuel duty receipts from gas oil only, a breakdown by vessel and vehicle type is not available.

The revenue forecast from fuel duty in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is published in Table C6 of the 2008 Budget report

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

A detailed breakdown by fuel type is not published.

Foreign Workers: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [193599]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in (a) Tamworth constituency, (b) Staffordshire and (c) the West Midlands in each of the last five years. (193599)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

The table attached shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Tamworth Parliamentary constituency, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The figures cover, the twelve month periods ending in February for 2003 and, 2004 from the annual LFS, and ending in March for 2005, 2006, and 2007 as well as June 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent for which figures are available, whereas a consistent time series is best provided using March and February data.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 13 February 2008, which are based on latest population estimates.

Number of non-UK born persons in employment in West Midlands, Staffordshire and Tamworth constituency in the last five years

Thousand

	Migrant Workers[1]		
12 months ending	*West Midlands*	*Staffordshire*	*Tamworth*
February 2003	155	9	3
February 2004	164	11	2
March 2005	174	12	2
March 2006	181	11	[2]—
March 2007	206	8	[2]—
June 2007	215	9	[2]—

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59. Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.

[2] Numbers in this cell are too small and could be disclosive.

Notes:

1. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to margin of uncertainty.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS may undercount the number of people who were born overseas:

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).

it is grossed to population estimates that exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003, which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey.

HM Revenue and Customs: Fraud

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on fraud in HM Revenue and Customs, how many of the investigations into suspected fraudulent activity which have been conducted since 1 April 2007 led to a prosecution. [193312]

Jane Kennedy: Prosecutions have led to two cases being concluded in the courts.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on fraud in HM Revenue and Customs, if he will list the divisions of HM Revenue and Customs in which staff who were investigated for fraudulent activity in the last 12 months were employed. [193315]

Jane Kennedy: Personal issues are confidential and it would be inappropriate to comment.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the review into housing benefit announced in paragraph 4.14 of Budget 2008. [194793]

Jane Kennedy: Budget 2008 announced the Government's intention to undertake a comprehensive review of the housing benefit system. The Government will announce their findings in due course.

Income

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the distribution by household income decile of expenditure on *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* child benefit; and what the income ranges are of each household income decile. [193376]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the breakdown of entitlements to tax credits and child benefit in 2007-08 by household income decile are provided in the following table.

Household income decile	*Percentage of all entitlements to tax credits*	*Percentage of all entitlements to child benefit*
Bottom	20	10
2	28	15
3	18	12
4	12	11
5	9	10
6	6	10
7	4	9
8	2	9
9	1	7
10	0	6

Household entitlements to tax credits and child benefit are modelled using Family Resources Survey data assuming 100 per cent. take-up of tax credits and income-related benefits, and are subject to sampling variation. Take up of tax credits is 82 per cent. for families with children and 96 per cent. for families with incomes of less than £10,000.

This table is broadly consistent with household incomes by decile published in 'Households Below Average Income—An analysis of the income distribution 1994-95 to 2005-06, Table A2', but with assumed complete take-up of support tending to raise incomes at the low end of the distribution.

Income Stifling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses he received to the consultation on the introduction of rules on income stifling; and how many of these were in favour of the proposed rules. [194193]

Jane Kennedy: By 28 February 2008, the formal closing date of the consultation Income shifting: a consultation on draft legislation, the Government had received 260 responses. The Government are continuing to review the detailed issues contained in the responses and will publish its formal response document in line with Cabinet Office guidelines.

Income Tax: Tax Yields

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue would be raised by an additional one per cent. on the basic rate of income tax in the fiscal year *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [194239]

Jane Kennedy: The cost or yield from a 1p change in the basic rate of income tax is regularly published in the "Tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs", copies of which are in the Library, and in Table 1.6 on the HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

An updated version of Table 1.6 reflecting changes announced in Budget 2007 which take effect from April 2008 is due to be published at the end of April.

Local Income Tax

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs have estimated the likely costs of collecting a local income tax that is *(a)* nationally set and *(b)* locally varied. [194264]

Yvette Cooper: Costs of collecting a local income tax depend on the details of the proposed scheme.

No detailed estimates have been made.

Local Income Tax: Scotland

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs have had discussions with the Scottish Executive on arrangements for collection of a local income tax. [194265]

Yvette Cooper: No.

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs have been asked by the Scottish Executive to *(a)* estimate the costs and *(b)* assess the feasibility of collecting a (i) nationally set and (ii) locally varied local income tax in Scotland. [194266]

Yvette Cooper: No.

Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has made of the effect of the situation in the credit markets on the availability of re-mortgages to householders with mortgages with high loan to value ratios. [193925]

Angela Eagle: As set out in the Budget 2008, credit conditions facing households and companies have tightened as a result of the recent disruption in credit markets. Budget 2008 is accessible at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08

The 2008 Financial Risk Outlook published by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) presents the FSA's assessment of the effects of the current disruption in the credit markets. The Financial Risk Outlook is accessible at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/

Public Sector: Job Creation

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public sector jobs were created in each region in each of the last 10 years. [193703]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many public sector jobs were created in each region in each of the last 10 years. (193703)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, estimates from administrative sources and surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes, in public sector employment by region, from year to year.

The attached table gives the average annual levels and annual change of public sector employment by region from 1999, the earliest available, to 2006.

These regional estimates are based on information published within 'Economic and Labour Market Review' Vol. 1 No. 3 March 2007 (pages 17 to 23) and are the most up to date available. They are not consistent with the UK estimates published in the most recent Public Sector Employment First Release (Quarter 3 2007), which is available via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/psel207.pdf

The estimates provided are based on returns from public sector organisations, combined with approximate breakdowns from the Labour Force Survey for Wales and the English regions. [illegible] these figures are partly based on sample surveys, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Public sector employment[1]: by region and country of workplace

Thousand—seasonally adjusted

	North East	North West	Yorks and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
Average level for:[2]					
1999	238	594	441	321	435
2000	230	642	461	316	429
2001	244	664	440	320	449
2002	252	661	460	330	467
2003	252	681	497	340	468
2004	263	676	496	368	477
2005	261	684	493	361	496
2006[5]	266	677	481	376	499
Annual change:					
1999-2000	-8	48	20	-5	-6
2000-01	14	22	-21	4	20
2001-02	8	-3	20	10	18
2002-03	0	20	37	10	1
2003-04	11	-5	-1	28	9
2004-05	-2	8	-3	-7	19
2005-06[6]	5	-7	-12	15	3

Thousand—seasonally adjusted

	East	London	South East	South West	England
Average level for:[2]					
1999	414	711	630	427	4,210
2000	428	675	639	451	4,271
2001	431	707	644	457	4,355
2002	440	725	644	473	4,453
2003	469	712	671	486	4,576
2004	487	740	697	483	4,688
2005	470	752	707	522	4,746
2006[5]	461	770	695	511	4,736
Annual change:					
1999-2000	14	-36	9	24	61
2000-01	3	32	5	6	84
2001-02	9	18	0	16	98
2002-03	29	-13	27	13	123
2003-04	18	28	26	-3	112
2004-05	-17	12	10	39	58
2005-06[6]	-9	18	-12	-11	-10

Thousand—seasonally adjusted

	Wales	Scotland[3]	Great Britain	Northern Ireland[4]	United Kingdom
Average level for:[2]					
1999	287	529	5,026	197	5,223
2000	297	532	5,100	199	5,299
2001	296	536	5,187	202	5,389
2002	304	545	5,302	206	5,508
2003	316	558	5,449	212	5,661
2004	303	571	5,563	216	5,779
2005	305	580	5,632	220	5,852
2006[5]	312	583	5,630	221	5,851
Annual change:					
1999-2000	10	3	74	2	76
2000-01	-1	4	87	3	90
2001-02	8	9	115	4	119
2002-03	12	13	147	6	153

Thousand—seasonally adjusted

	Wales	*Scotland*[3]	*Great Britain*	*Northern Ireland*[4]	*United Kingdom*
2003-04	-13	13	114	4	118
2004-05	2	9	69	4	73
2005-06[6]	7	3	-2	1	-1

[1] Headcount.

[2] Annual estimates are based four quarter averages for March (Q1). June (Q2). September (Q3) and December (Q4). For example the 1999 estimate is an average taken for the quarters Q1 1999 to Q4 1999.

[3] Public sector employment estimates for Scotland are published by Scottish Executive (SE) on a quarterly basis back to Q1 1999 from administrative records and surveys of public sector organisations in Scotland.

[4] Public sector statistics for Northern Ireland relate to the number of public sector jobs rather than the number of people working in the public sector. The percentages for Northern Ireland as a proportion of all employment will differ from DETINI estimates expressed as a proportion of all jobs. HM Forces figures are not Included in Northern Ireland estimates.

[5] Estimates for 2006 have been produced using estimates from only the first three quarters. Q1. Q2. Q3 calendar quarter LFS microdata have been used to obtain regional splits (see section 'Use of LFS data for analysis of public sector employment' of 'Regional analysis of public sector employment' article in 'Economic and Labour Market Review' Vol 1 No 3 March 2007 (pages 17 to 23)).

[6] The change for 2005-06 is a nine month change as data for 2006 Q4 are not available.

Sources:
Labour Force Survey, returns from public sector organisations (ONS, Scottish Executive and Department of Enterprise. Trade and Investment for Northern Ireland (DETINI))

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1431W, on HM Revenue and Customs, what criteria are used for categorising which form of postal service is used for the different types of mail HM Revenue and Customs dispatches. [193519]

Jane Kennedy: The criteria for determining which form of service is used by HMRC for the dispatch of post are selected locally, based on the individual circumstances of each case taking into account general guidance on HMRC postal arrangements. These postal arrangements are currently under review as part of the Departmental Transformation Programme.

Since November 2007, HMRC has reminded staff of the appropriate data security procedures which must be followed at all times when handling data. These arrangements are being examined as part of the Poynter Review commissioned by the Chancellor (the interim findings of which were announced by the Chancellor on 17 December 2007, *Official Report,* columns 612-23).

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the decision was reached to close the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley; who was consulted before the decision was taken; and if he will make a statement. [194525]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs is reviewing all its accommodation to match it to future business needs and create significant efficiency savings. Initial proposals for restructuring its estate and business in any area are published for consultation with staff, unions and key external stakeholders, including hon. Members with a constituency interest and relevant local authorities. The results of the consultation exercise and of detailed feasibility work inform the final decisions.

In the original proposals for restructuring its business and estate in the Preston/Blackpool urban centre the Chorley office was one of those proposed for retention. However, detailed feasibility work showed that the staff in Chorley could be accommodated in other offices where they could be co-located with larger teams, so increasing operational effectiveness as well as realising estate savings.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff work at the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Chorley; and whether all those staff will be transferred to other HMRC offices following closure of the Chorley office; [194526]

(2) where the nearest HM Revenue and Customs office will be for people living in Chorley after the Chorley office closes. [194527]

Jane Kennedy: 77 staff work at the HMRC office in Lingmell House, Chorley, which houses an Enquiry Centre offering face-to-face advice to HMRC customers. The Enquiry Centre will remain either in Lingmell House or in a nearby location, so that the effect on customer service will be minimal.

Business plans are for all staff, except those needed to staff the Enquiry Centre, to be transferred to other offices where they can be co-located with larger teams. Depending on the business stream in which staff work, they may be transferred to offices in Bootle, Manchester, Salford or Preston, but no one will be required to relocate beyond reasonable daily travel.

Revenue and Customs: Offices

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Regional Review Programme of HM Revenue and Customs offices in smaller towns and cities across the UK to be completed and its recommendations produced. [194442]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) told its staff on 14 March that it will publish proposals for reorganising its offices in smaller towns and cities in the South East, East Midlands, West Midlands and North East on 19 March, and expects to announce proposals for the remaining locations by the end of May.

Decisions on the future of these offices are expected to be published by the end of the year, following consultation and detailed feasibility work.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria a civil servant in HM Revenue and Customs must fulfil to be *(a)* considered for and *(b)* awarded a bonus on top of their regular salary. [192415]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* In respect of the pay framework for the senior civil service, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 537W.

For other staff, individual performance is measured against objectives agreed for each performance year. 'Top performer' payments are made to staff who have exceeded these objectives and sustained very high levels of performance and behaviour. In addition, a small number of 'Good Performers' (i.e. those staff who have delivered the required levels of performance against their business and development objectives) receive a payment in addition to their basic pay award if they are on the maximum of their pay range.

HMRC also operates a recognition bonus scheme which provides an immediate reward, outside the terms of the appraisal system, for the visible demonstration of exceptional performance during the delivery of particularly demanding tasks, projects or situations.

Revenue and Customs: Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 339W, on Revenue and Customs: postal services, what guidance is provided to HM Revenue and Customs staff in deciding whether an item of post is sent by recorded post; and if he will place a copy of this guidance in the Library. [180461]

Jane Kennedy: Decisions about when to send items by recorded delivery are made locally based on the individual circumstances of each case and guidance of each business area.

The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Firearms

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many firearms were intercepted at UK borders in each of the last five years. [193964]

Jane Kennedy: The following table provides data on the number of firearms seized by HM Revenue and Customs for the financial years 2002 to 2007. The figures do not include stun guns (electric shock devices) or self-defence sprays (pepper sprays and CS gas canisters) or parts of firearms.

Financial year	*Number of firearms seized*
2002-03	264
2003-04	293
2004-05	381
2005-06	759
2006-07	376

Tax Credits Office: Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual staff turnover has been in the Tax Credits Office since 2003. [190016]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff deployed to tax credits work in Tax Credit Office (TCO) in each year was:

	Number of FTE (around)
2003-04	2,500
2004-05	2,500
2005-06	3,100
2006-07	3,700

These estimates take account of changes to organisational boundaries within the former Inland Revenue and HMRC over that time.

There are currently just over 4,000 FTE working in TCO.

Tax Evasion

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue lost to the Exchequer as a result of tax evasion in the latest period for which figures are available. [194719]

Jane Kennedy: There are no robust estimates of the revenue lost specifically to tax evasion.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department work on tax evasion matters. [194720]

Jane Kennedy: HRMC has approximately 35,000 full-time equivalent staff allocated to compliance activities which include, for example, policy development, inquiries and investigations. These staff often operate in multifunctional teams, tackling non-compliant behaviour ranging from simple errors through to complex fraud and organised attacks. As a result, HMRC is not able to separately quantify the number of staff working on evasion matters.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model is calibrated. [193847]

Jane Kennedy: Yes, not for a council tax revaluation but to maintain the investment that has been made in this technology and support the ongoing work of the Valuation Office Agency.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's technical definition of a consequential is in relation to valuations of domestic properties. [193850]

Jane Kennedy: This is not a technical term. It has the same meaning as in the ordinary use of language.

Valuation Office: Digital Technology

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2099W, on the Valuation Office: digital technology, what the reasons were for the decision that it is not appropriate to place the guidance in the Library. [192322]

Jane Kennedy: The purpose of the Valuation Office Agency's best practice guide in the use of digital photography is to ensure that the performance of the Agency's computer system is not affected. As the guide is technical in nature and designed solely for use within the Agency, it is not considered appropriate to place it in the Library.

Valuation Office: Visits Abroad

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on HM Revenue and Customs: visits abroad, which overseas destinations were visited by Valuation Office Agency staff in the last 24 months; how many visits were made to each destination; what the purpose was of each visit; and what the cost was to the public purse of such visits. [192194]

Jane Kennedy: In the last 24 months, VOA staff have visited America, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Spain, France, China, Belgium, Finland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Lithuania, Ireland and Hong Kong on official business.

More detailed information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to extend the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model for council tax valuations and revaluations to Wales. [194045]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency is currently developing automated valuation model capabilities to support work in connection with the maintenance of the current (2005) council tax lists in Wales. This will increase both the overall efficiency of the Agency's work, and will deliver further improvements in customer service for taxpayers in Wales.

VAT: Housing Improvement

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued on whether the 5 per cent. VAT rate for the installation of energy-saving materials in homes can be applied to the *(a)* installation costs and *(b)* cost of a heat pump. [194958]

Jane Kennedy: Guidance on the scope of the reduced rate of VAT for the installation of energy-saving materials, including its application to heat pumps, can be found in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Notice 708/6, Energy-saving materials which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were adjusted on 1 September 2007 on the assumption a 16 year old in the household had left full-time education; how many were permanently reduced; and how many were returned to previous levels because the child had remained in full-time education. [194470]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports on the tax credit system have been prepared by the Office of Government Commerce; *(a)* when and *(b)* why each was commissioned; and on what dates he received them. [194475]

Jane Kennedy: Six OGC Gateway™ Reports have been completed on the New Tax Credits Programme:

One Gate 3 (Investment Decision) 22 January 2002 to 25 January 2002;

Four Gate 4s (Readiness for Service) from 3 December to 5 December 2002, 7 October 2003 to 10 October 2003, 15 March 2004 to 18 March 2004, 21 March 2005 to 24 March 2005 respectively; and

One Gate 5 (Benefits Realisation) from 25 September 2006 to 28 September 2006.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on training staff in the Tax Credit Office whose main duties were (a) operating telephone helplines, (b) processing applications and awards and (c) other duties in each financial year since 2003; and how many days training on average each category of staff received in each of those years. [194488]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in the Tax Credit Office received training in each year since 2003; and for how many days on average in each year. [194489]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many manual payments of tax credits were made in each quarter since 2003. [194490]

Jane Kennedy: Information about the number of tax credits payments made manually up to and including January 2007 was provided in an answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1513-14W. Quarterly information for 2007 is provided in the following table:

Quarter ending (2007)	*Number of payments (thousand) (around)*
31 March	154
30 June	99
30 September	100
31 December	102

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases were referred to the Adjudicator's Office in each quarter since 2003. [194496]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the Adjudicator's annual report for 2007 which is available at:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/pdf/report2007.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of tax credit overpayments was in each month since April 2003; how many overpayments were written off in each of those months; at what cost in each quarter during that period; and what the average amount of overpayment written off in each of those quarters was. [194480]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credit over and underpayments are established after renewal at finalisation. Information relating to overpayments is therefore accounted for on a tax year basis.

Information on the number of awards with an overpayment of tax credits, including value, in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is produced in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments In." for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The amount of tax credit overpayments written off up to 5 April 2007 and the cost of managing and paying child and working tax credits are shown in note 8.2 and 3 of the Trust Statement to the HM Revenue and Customs Accounts for 2005-06 and 2006-07. These reports are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many instances of recovery of overpayments or excess payments have been disputed by tax credit recipients in each year since 2003; [194483]

(2) how many TC846 forms have been received by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2003; [194484]

(3) how many tax credit overpayment cases were reviewed at the request of the recipient in each quarter since April 2003; and what proportion of these reviews led to *(a)* some and *(b)* all of the overpayment being written off; [194494]

(4) how many times the Tax Credit Office wrote off an overpayment in each year since 2003 because *(a)* of official error where it was reasonable for the recipient to think the award was correct and *(b)* it would have caused hardship to have recovered (i) all and (ii) part of the overpayment. [194501]

Jane Kennedy: Customers can ask HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to reconsider a decision to ask them to repay their overpaid tax credits by writing to the Department or by completing a form (TC846) that is provided for that purpose. HMRC do not separately count the number of requests made specifically using the TC846.

Overpayments were only identified after April 2004 when HMRC started finalising awards for 2003-04. The Department began considering disputed overpayments in June 2004.

For the numbers of disputes received and written off either in part or in full up to and including August 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave him on 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 736W. Figures for each quarter ended 30 September 2006 to 31 December 2007 inclusive are shown as follows:

Quarter ending	*Number of disputes received (around)*
30 September 2006	96,000
31 December 2006	82,500
31 March 2007	61,000
30 June 2007	43,000
30 September 2007	46,000
31 December 2007	62,000

Quarter ending	*Number written off either in whole or in part (around)*
30 September 2006	2,800
31 December 2006	2,400
31 March 2007	1,550
30 June 2007	1,300
30 September 2007	700
31 December 2007	1,800

Note:
The figures for overpayments written off do not directly relate to those disputes that were received in the same period. TCO does not separately record whether an overpayment is written off in-part or in full.

For the most recent information about the number of overpayments written off in cases of hardship, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 825W.

Working Tax Credit: Foreigners

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals who are not allowed recourse to public funds but who are receiving working tax credits. [194108]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available. Persons whose right to enter or remain in the UK restricts them from accessing public funds are not generally entitled to tax credits. This follows long standing Government policy.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

LEAs: Performance

14. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to monitor the performance of local education authorities in discharging their functions. [194077]

Jim Knight: The performance of local authorities in the delivery of services for children and young people is assessed annually by Ofsted. They also undertake with other inspectorates a programme of Joint Area Reviews of services provided by all partners in an area. Government Offices and associated field forces, and the National Strategies in respect of standards of attainment, provide ongoing differentiated support and challenge to local authorities.

Early Intervention

15. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he had on his visit to Seagrave Primary School in Nottingham on the role of the social and emotional aspects of the learning programme as part of an early intervention strategy in deprived areas. [194078]

Ed Balls: I acknowledged the importance of social and emotional learning for all young children. The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme is a universal programme from which all children and young people can potentially benefit, and it can be of particular benefit when they have a significant lack of social and emotional skills.

AS-levels

18. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future of the AS-level qualification. [194081]

Jim Knight:A-levels are long-established and valued qualifications. We will review, in 2013, the evidence and experience following the introduction of all 17 of the new Diplomas to see how the overall range of qualifications meets the needs of young people and supports their progression into further study and employment. We will consider the future of A levels, including AS levels, in the light of this evidence.

Standards of Attainment

20. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of levels of educational attainment in schools in Northamptonshire and England against international benchmarks. [194083]

Jim Knight: There have been significant improvements in educational achievement at Key Stages 2 and 3. Schools in Northamptonshire have improved broadly in line with national average.

We cannot make direct comparisons of schools in an international context. Recent PIRLS and PISA studies found that children and young people in England performed above the international average in reading in primary and science in secondary and around the international average for mathematics and reading in secondary.

Team Sports

21. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage team sports in schools. [194084]

Kevin Brennan: We are firmly in favour of competitive school sport. Increasing the quality and amount of competitive school sport is a key aim of the Government's PE and Sport strategy. The 2006/07 School Sport Survey showed that:

98 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day;

58 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

35 per cent. of all pupils were involved in inter-school competition.

We are introducing a National School Sport Week and, from January 2009, a national network of Competition Managers, covering every school in the country, will be in place.

Admissions Process

22. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of the schools admissions system in the East Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [194085]

Jim Knight: As part of our recent analysis of published admission arrangements for 2008 in three local authorities to assess the level of compliance with the School Admissions Code, we looked at the arrangements for Northamptonshire. We have written to the local authority, and to the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools who appear not to have complied with the Code or the law, to ask them to verify what we have found. When this process is complete we will make a further statement.

IT Projects

23. **Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on IT projects in 2007-08. [194086]

Kevin Brennan: Subject to final outcomes, the Department expects to spend £98 million on IT projects in the 2007-08 financial year. This figure includes a wide range of investments in both the Department's internal systems and major IT-enabled policy initiatives. For example, the Department takes the cross-government lead on implementing ContactPoint, which has a budget of £76 million for this period.

Building Schools for the Future

24. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timetable is for the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [194087]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future aims that by 2020 all secondary schools in England will be refurbished or rebuilt, in 15 waves of investment. So far, we have launched six waves, and we have given all local authorities a broad indication of the order of their projects. This information is in the House Library. We intend to consult on the management of waves seven to 15 this year.

Binge Drinking

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to provide information on the effects of binge drinking to school pupils; and if he will make a statement. [194073]

Kevin Brennan: We are committed to reducing substance misuse and related harm among young people, including that associated with binge drinking and alcohol misuse. Alcohol education is delivered alongside drugs education, and DCSF guidance is clear that pupils' education about alcohol and its effects should start in primary school, before drinking patterns become established, and should be revisited as pupils' understanding and experience increases. Government are communicating information about risks associated with drinking to young people through the "Know Your Limits" and FRANK campaigns.

Part-Time Jobs: Schoolchildren

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schoolchildren working 20 or more hours a week in part-time jobs. [194079]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect this information for children of compulsory school age, nor do we have a reliable estimate. The law prohibits such children from working more than 12 hours a week during term time. There are other legal restrictions on child employment; for example, concerning the number of hours each day and the types of occupation in which children may be employed. Employers who contravene the rules may be fined.

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many expressions of interest for an academy have been received by his Department since the academies programme began; and how many have been approved. [192391]

Jim Knight: From March 2000 to the end of February 2008, 179 expressions of interest had been approved. A further three academy proposals have won competitions for proposed new and replacement schools.

At any particular time a range of discussions on potential academy projects will be going on between the Office of the Schools Commissioner, local authorities and potential sponsors. Most of these will lead to formal expressions of interest, but others will not be taken forward as academy projects.

Academies: Teaching Methods

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of academic lessons are set by ability. [173245]

Jim Knight: Our current data—which are taken from Ofsted inspection reports—do not enable us to count or estimate how many lessons in England are set by ability.

Ofsted collects data on the use of streaming and setting in lessons observed during inspection. Before September 2005, inspectors were usually informed about how classes were organised by means of pre-inspection documentation, discussion with head teachers or teachers' schemes of work or lesson plans. Under the inspection arrangements at that time, all full-time teachers were observed by inspectors. Since September 2005, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the head teacher or teacher or by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons are observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework; therefore, lessons seen may not represent pupil grouping in the school as a whole.

Prior to 2003-04 lessons were recorded as being setted, streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

From 2003-04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and instead data recorded on whether the class was mixed ability or setted/streamed.

The data here described for each year between 1996-97 and 2006-07 were included in the answer given in August 2007 to the hon. Gentleman's parliamentary question number 153953. HMCI Christine Gilbert also wrote to him in February of this year to inform him that there was an error in the figures given for 2005-06 and 2006-07, and the correct figures for the two years were included in that letter.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Building Schools for the Future projects have been completed in each local authority. [192839]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future is a long-term educational investment programme that gives local authorities the opportunity to rebuild, refurbish or remodel groups of schools across their entire estate. As such, no local authorities have yet completed their project; the first ones are due for completion in 2009.

However, the programme is now making good progress; 72 authorities are now involved in waves one to six. A further 40 authorities are receiving funding for a single school project. Together with academies, a total of around 1,000 secondary schools are currently developing plans for modernisation—almost a third of the total secondary school estate.

11 schools have been opened to date, and a 12th is anticipated by the end of March. It is expected that a further 35 schools will be completed in the financial year 2008-09.

The schools that are currently open are shown in the following table:

Local authority	*School*
Solihull	Solihull Centre for Inclusive Learning[1]
Newcastle	All Saints College[1]
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Bamburgh School[1]
Sheffield	Chaucer Business Enterprise College[1]
Sunderland	Oxclose School[1]
Haringey	Sixth Form Centre[1]
Bristol	Bristol Brunel Academy[2]
Lambeth	Elmgreen School[3]
Stoke	Birches Head High School[1]
Stoke	Sandon High School[1]
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett school

[1] Relates to quick wins schools.
[2] The first BSF school opened through a LEP.
[3] Elmgreen School is new provision that has opened in temporary buildings.

Building Schools for the Future projects have reached financial close in the following local authorities: Bradford, Bristol, Greenwich, Knowsley, Lambeth, Lancashire (phase 1 and 2), Leeds, Leicester, Lewisham, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Solihull, South Tyneside and Gateshead and Waltham Forest.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much capital funding has been provided by each local authority for each school in its area under construction under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [192849]

(2) which local authority areas Partnership for Schools has provided more capital funding for local authority schools than for academies in each year from 2003; and if he will make a statement. [192852]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the funding which has been provided to local authorities for schools currently under construction in the Building Schools for the Future programme. In addition, local authorities may contribute funds from other sources.

Local Authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Schools under construction*	*Funding provided for schools under construction (£ million)*[1]
Bradford	Shipley	Salt	2.8
	Bradford South	Tong	
	Bradford South	Buttershaw	
Bristol	Bristol East	Brislington	2.8
	Bristol South	Hartcliffe	
	Bristol East	Whitefield	
Lewisham	Lewisham West	Sedgehill	6.4
	Lewisham East	Catford	
Sheffield	Sheffield Heeley	Newfield	13.8
	Sheffield Hallam	Silverdale	
	Sheffield Heeley	Talbot	
	Sheffield Brightside	Yewlands	
Knowsley	Knowsley South	St Edmund Canterbury	0
	Knowsley South	Halewood	
	Knowsley South	Prescott	
Lancashire	Burnley	Pendle Vale	0.7
	Burnley	Pendle Vale special	

Local Authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Schools under construction*	*Funding provided for schools under construction (£ million)*[1]
	Burnley	Shuttleworth	
	Pendle	Burnley Sixth form	
	Burnley	Sir John Thursby	
	Burnley	Sir John Thursby special	
Leeds	Leeds North East	Allerton Grange	29.9
	Leeds North East	Allerton High	
	Leeds Central	Cockburn	
	Pudsey	Pudsey Grangefield	
	Morley and Rothwell	Rodillian	
	Leeds East	Temple Moor High	
Leicester	Leicester West	Beaumont Leys	38
	Leicester West	Fullhurst	
	Leicester East	Soar Valley	
	Leicester East	Judgemeadow	
Manchester	Manchester Gorton	Cedar Mount	94.9
	Manchester Blackley	Our Lady's	
	Manchester Blackley	St. Matthew's	
	Wythenshawe and Sale East	Newall Green	
	Wythenshawe and Sale East	St. Pauls	
	Manchester Gorton	Melland	
	Manchester, Blackley	Meade Hill	
	Wythenshawe and Sale East	Piper Hill	
	Manchester, Withington	Southern Cross	
Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne	Thomas Bewick	9.9
	North Newcastle upon Tyne and Wallsend	Benfield	
	Newcastle upon Tyne Central	Kenton	
	Newcastle upon Tyne North	Walbottle	
Solihull	Meriden	Park Hall	15.1
	Meriden	Smith's Wood	
	Meriden	The Archbishop Grimshaw	
	Meriden	Lanchester	
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow	Frederick Bremer	17.4
	Walthamstow	Whitefield	
	Walthamstow	Williams Morris	
	Walthamstow	Kelmscott	
	Walthamstow	Walthamstow Girls	
	Walthamstow	Holy Family	
	Walthamstow	Willowfield	
Lambeth	Vauxhall Dulwich and	Park Campus	25
	West Norwood	West Norwood (temporary)	
	Dulwich and West Norwood	Elm Court	
Durham	City of Durham	Durham Johnston	8.8
Kent	Gravesham	Ifield	5.7

[1] Funding shown in the table does not include allocations for PFI projects as these become payable when construction is completed.

Classroom Assistants: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants were employed in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Tamworth in each of the last 10 years. [193617]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency, in each January from 1998 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants[1] employed in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency, in each January from 1998 to 2007

	Teaching assistants[1]	
	Primary	*Secondary*
1998	90	10
1999	90	20
2000	100	20
2001	110	20
2002[2]	80	30
2003	140	30
2004	150	30
2005	160	40
2006	170	50
2007	170	50

[1] Includes teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

[2] A change of school census collection method in 2002 may have caused some discontinuity in time series data.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom last met. [192875]

Jim Knight: An interim National Advisory Group has met six times since November 2006 and last met on 28 February. This group, representing more than 900 signatories to the Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom, is working with the Department to shape the new council which is expected to be formally constituted by the end of the year.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what documents his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [187986]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families—and, prior to this department's establishment in June 2007, the Department for Education and Skills—spent the following on translation services:

		£
(a)	2003-04	166,379
(b)	2004-05	130,664
(c)	2005-06	170,252
(d)	2006-07	89,705
(e)	2007-08	[1]3,425

[1] to date

The Department considers translating its documents according to their specific content, purpose and target audience. For example, it might consider offering translations for those communities who face high levels of social exclusion and are less likely to be fluent and literate in English.

The Department's frameworks for translation services are accessed by some of its non-departmental bodies, but records of usage are not held centrally.

Education: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of additional places in schools for further education and apprenticeships which will be needed in *(a)* England and *(b)* Devon if the school leaving age is increased to 18 by 2013. [164108]

Jim Knight: The Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16", published proposals for the education and training leaving age to be raised in two stages with the participation age not being raised to 18 until 2015. It contained projected participation numbers for 16 and 17-year-olds broken down into provision type. In 2013/14 there were projected to be an additional 5,000 places needed in schools, 13,000 places needed in FE and HE, and 48,000 additional work-based learning places, which include apprenticeships.

The Department has not carried out detailed analysis of this at a local level. Demographic changes will vary between local areas, of course, as will the nature of demand from young people, and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

English Language: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for WJEC English GCSE in each year for which figures are available. [192622]

Jim Knight: The numbers and proportions of pupils entered for GCSE English from 1993/94 to 2006/07 are given in the following table.

Figures relating to just WJEC examinations can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number and proportion of pupils entered for English and English Literature from 1993/94 to 2006/07

	Number of 15-year-old pupils	*Number of pupils entered for GCSE*	*Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject*
English			
2007	656,432	612,679	93.3
2006	648,942	606,615	93.5
2005	636,771	593,637	93.2

Number and proportion of pupils entered for English and English Literature from 1993/94 to 2006/07

	Number of 15-year-old pupils	*Number of pupils entered for GCSE*	*Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject*
2004	643,560	597,621	92.9
2003	622,122	577,427	92.8
2002	606,554	560,199	92.4
2001	603,318	555,392	92.1
2000	580,393	533,227	91.9
1999	580,972	530,173	91.3
1998	575,210	519,983	90.4
1997	586,766	533,348	90.9
1996	594,035	538,780	90.7
1995	578,197	524,333	90.7
1994	532,273	482,750	90.7
English Literature			
2007	656,432	519,040	79.1
2006	648,942	523,548	80.7
2005	636,771	521,098	81.8
2004	643,560	529,716	82.3
2003	622,122	516,886	83.1
2002	606,554	500,808	82.6
2001	603,318	493,265	81.8
2000	580,393	469,693	80.9
1999	580,972	464,612	80.0
1998	575,210	449,046	78.1
1997	586,766	458,604	78.2
1996	594,035	455,172	76.6
1995	578,197	437,087	75.6
1994	532,273	392,181	73.7

Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools.

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took two or more A-levels of the subjects, accounting, art and design, business studies, communication studies, dance, design and technology, drama and theatre studies, film studies, health and social care, home economics, information and communication technology, leisure studies, media studies, music technology, performance studies, performing arts, photography, physical education, sports studies and travel and tourism in the latest period for which figures are available. [192840]

Jim Knight: 23,845 pupils took two or more of the subjects listed at GCE/VCE A Level in 2006-07. This is 10.2 per cent. of pupils taking GCE/VCE A- Levels.

This figure relates to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006) in all schools.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils gained five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics and excluding statistics, humanities, physical education, media/television/film studies, psychology, law and sociology and GCSE equivalents in 2007. [192848]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the gap was between the highest and lowest achieving school in terms of numbers of pupils attaining five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in each education authority in 2007; [193057]

(2) what variation there was between the best and worst results *(a)* at key stage 2, *(b)* at key stage 3 and *(c)* against the target of five A* to C grades at GCSE. [193060]

Jim Knight: The achievements of schools in 2003/04 onwards can be found in the Achievement and Attainment Tables in the Library. The tables for previous years can be found on the DCSF website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables.

Gifted Children

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what method gifted and talented pupils are defined by his Department. [193277]

Jim Knight: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West (Mr. Brady) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1097W.

Gifted Children: GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many gifted and talented pupils gained three A grades at A-level in 2007; [192883]

(2) how many and what proportion of gifted and talented pupils of the appropriate age took A-levels in 2007; [192885]

(3) how many and what proportion of gifted and talented pupils of the appropriate age did not go on to study A-levels in the last year for which data are available; [192886]

(4) how many gifted and talented pupils of the appropriate age gained no GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available; [192887]

(5) what proportion of gifted and talented pupils of the appropriate age achieved five A* to C GCSE grades including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language in the latest period for which figures are available; [192888]

(6) how many gifted and talented pupils received a fixed term exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available; [192889]

(7) how many gifted and talented pupils received a permanent exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available. [192891]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the career of each member of the review of sex and relationship education has been to date; what criteria were used in selecting them; if he will make it a requirement that the review *(a)* hears evidence from pro-life and pro-choice experts and *(b)* appoints a balance of pro-life and pro-choice advisers; how (i) hon. Members and (ii) members of the public may submit comments to the review; if he will place in the Library material published by the review; and if he will make a statement. [192525]

Jim Knight: The names and job titles/positions of the people that have been invited to oversee the review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools, are set out as follows. Members were selected on the basis that they have either: expert knowledge on the delivery of SRE; expert knowledge on young people's sexual health; or represent groups who have a key interest in the outcome of the review.

The Steering Group therefore includes: professionals who plan and deliver SRE programmes in schools; senior managers and governors who have overall responsibility for the SRE programmes that schools deliver; experts in young people's sexual health; representatives of faith organisations; and young people themselves.

Members of the Steering Group have not been selected with regard to their attitudes to abortion, but we believe that different shades of opinion are represented on the Group.

We are considering how to extend opportunities for individuals and organisations which are not represented on the steering group to feed ideas and comments into the review, and will announce decisions on this issue shortly. Any material that is published will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

SRE review steering group: membership

Jim Knight (co-chair)

Jackie Fisher (co-chair)—principal, Newcastle college

Joshua McTaggart (co-chair)—member of UK Youth Parliament

John Freeman—Director of Children' Services, Dudley

Hazel Pulley—primary school head teacher, Leicester

Hilda Hodson—secondary school deputy head teacher, Wigan

Charlie Ware—school governor, Camden

Desmond Flood—school PSHE co-ordinator, Birmingham

Annie Hargreaves—local authority adviser on PSHE and healthy schools, Hounslow

Anna Martinez—head of sex education forum

Chris McDermott—school nurse manager, Surrey

Professor Roger Ingham—University of Southampton

Gill Frances—head of child development, National Children's Bureau

Simon Blake—chief executive, Brook

Jan Campbell—PSHE Subject Association

Margaret Jones—Ofsted PSHE lead

Gareth Davies—Terrence Higgins Trust

Oona Stannard—Catholic Education Service

Rev'd David Whittington—Church of England National Society

Anthea Cox—Methodist church

Shaila Sheikh—local authority education equalities adviser, East Sussex

David Kesterton—Manager of fpa's 'Speakeasy' programme

Robert Sassoon—member of UK Youth Parliament

Katrina Mather—Member of UK Youth Parliament

Institute of Education: Finance

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 8541-2W, on Institute of Education: finance, what assessment he has made of the recent report of the Institute on the teaching of patriotism in schools; what plans he has to review the level of funding to the Institute; and if he will make a statement. [194149]

Jim Knight: The Department noted the findings of the recent report on the teaching of patriotism in schools by the Institute of Education. We believe that the engagement of young people in society and their understanding of what it is to be a citizen is central to creating a diverse but cohesive country. There are opportunities within the revised citizenship programmes of study for secondary schools for pupils to explore what it means to be British as part of a wider discussion of their identities, and the values associated with them.

The Department has no current plans to review the level of funding to the Institute of Education.

Parental Contributions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parental contribution orders have been made in the last 12 months; what the value of contributions to be made under them was; how many contributions have been made; and what value of contributions has been made. [162270]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the making of contribution orders, made in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989, is not collected centrally.

Primary Education: Closures

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many village primary schools have been closed since 1998. [194967]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of rural primary schools that have closed between 1998 and 2007.

	Number of rural school closures[1]
1998	5
1999	2
2000	2
2001	3
2002	5
2003	12
2004	9
2005	8

	Number of rural school closures[1]
2006	7
2007	8

[1] Figures show actual school closures and do not include school amalgamations (eg. infant and junior schools amalgamating on one site).

Primary Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at key stage 1 in Tamworth were taught in classes of 31 pupils or more in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [193601]

Jim Knight: The information can be found in the following table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils in key stage 1 classes[2,3]—position in January. 1997 and 2007—Tamworth parliamentary constituency

	Key stage 1 classes	
	1997	*2007[4]*
Number of pupils in class	3,506	2,452
Number of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils	493	0
Percentage of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils	14.1	0.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Class as taught in a selected period on the day of the census in January.

[3] Classes taught by one teacher.

[4] Also includes reception classes.

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Hay Fever

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what work his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on provision of clinical care to children with hay fever in schools; and what measures are in place to ensure that such children receive appropriate medication during the examination season. [193347]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to develop the provision of clinical care to children with hay fever in schools.

Schools and their employers have responsibilities towards the health and safety of all staff and pupils, and this may include making arrangements for individual pupils with medical needs, where it is reasonable to do so. There is, however, no legal duty on school staff to manage a pupil's medicine or support a child's medical need.

Schools and their employers are responsible for developing their own policies on managing pupils' medicines and supporting children with medical needs. This should be developed in light of their assessment of local needs and resources.

"Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings", published in 2005 jointly by the then Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health, was written to help schools to develop such policies. This guidance suggests that it is good practice to support and encourage children, who are able, to take responsibility to manage their own medicines.

The Joint Council for Qualifications seeks to take into account a range of different conditions and circumstances which can affect performance in examinations. Under present arrangements, candidates who suffer from hay fever on the day of an examination may apply via their examination centre for "special consideration", which can result in an increase in their marks by up to 2 per cent., depending on the circumstances.

Pupils: Personal Records

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which public authority oversees the allocation of unique pupil numbers to each child in state education. [193859]

Jim Knight: The Department is responsible for the policy on UPN allocation. The responsibility for allocating unique pupil numbers (UPNs) lies with schools and local authorities (LAs).

Recreation Spaces: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* submitted a bid to become a play pathfinder; and if he will make a statement. [194188]

Beverley Hughes: The following 65 local authorities in England have been invited to bid to become play pathfinders. They are listed by region. Almost all authorities invited to submit a bid will be doing so. DCSF will be considering bids shortly.

Statement

15 local authorities will be selected as play pathfinders from April 2008. Successful bids will demonstrate proposals for safe, inclusive play areas that offer exciting and stimulating opportunities and sit within a wider strategic approach to deliver a sustainable and far-reaching play agenda. The bids will also clearly demonstrate how local authorities will work with children, their local communities and local MPs.

Play pathfinders will each receive around £2 million capital funding plus significant revenue funding. These play pathfinders will work with children, young people and their communities to develop innovative play sites with challenging equipment and natural landscapes, which will give all children the opportunity to play actively outdoors. The play sites will also be accessible for disabled children. The bids should include plans for building a new staffed adventure playground, with indoor and outdoor facilities, specifically aimed at improving play opportunities for eight to 13-year-olds where they currently lack places to go and things to do, and often in disadvantaged areas.

Any of the 65 local authorities who are unsuccessful in becoming a pathfinder, but who submit satisfactory bids, will be offered capital funding of approximately £1 million to become 'playbuilders', to develop public play areas, with the first allocations starting April 2008. This will support our aim of developing up to 3,500 public play areas by 2011. By 2010 all local authorities will have been offered capital funding and a chance to be a part of this agenda in partnership with their local communities.

A second round of pathfinder bidding will take place autumn 2008 and this will be open for all local authorities to apply. A further 15 play pathfinders will be selected so that by 2011, 30 pathfinders in total will deliver 30 new adventure playgrounds.

List of 65 local authorities in England invited to bid to become play pathfinders

North East

Durham
Gateshead
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
North Tyneside
Northumberland
Stockton
Sunderland

North West

Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Bury
Halton
Knowsley
Lancashire
Rochdale
Sefton
Thameside

Yorkshire and Humberside

Calderdale
East Riding
Kirklees
Rotherham

East Midlands

Derby
Leicester
Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire

West Midlands

Coventry
Dudley
Solihull
Staffordshire
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire
East Cambridge
Luton
Peterborough
Southend
Suffolk
Thurrock

South East

East Sussex
Hampshire
Oxfordshire
Portsmouth
Reading
Slough
Southampton

South West

Bath and North East Somerset
Bristol
Cornwall
Plymouth
Somerset

London

Brent
Camden
Croydon
Enfield
Hackney
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Lambeth
Lewisham
Redbridge
Southwark
Tower Hamlets

Schools: Admissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the maintained schools category have been levying charges on applicants to the school in the last 12 months; and what the type and religious category is of each. [194306]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families further to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, on school admissions and parental preferences for 2008 (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* voluntary aided and *(b)* foundation schools which were not found to be complying with the schools admissions code; and if he will make a statement; [194652]

(2) which schools in *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Barnet were found not to be complying with the schools admissions code; what violations of the code were found in each case; and if he will make a statement. [194694]

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 4-7W, on school admissions (strengthening the system), (1) if he will list the schools in Northamptonshire, Manchester and Barnet that *(a)* ask parents to commit to making financial contributions as a condition of admission, *(b)* do not give looked after children the priority required by law, *(c)* ask about the marital status, occupation or financial status of parents, *(d)* give priority on the basis of family members who are not siblings attending the school and *(e)* interview children; [194797]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by his Department to Northamptonshire county council, Manchester city council and Barnet borough council regarding the admissions arrangements of schools in those areas. [194798]

Jim Knight: As I announced to Parliament on 11 March 2008, we have written to all the schools where we have found evidence of non-compliance with the School Admissions Code and admissions legislation and have asked them to verify our findings. When this process is complete we will release the names of the schools we wrote to and identify those with non-compliant admission arrangements, and will report back to the House.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 4-7WS, on school admissions (strengthening the system), on what day his Department wrote to *(a)* Northamptonshire county council, *(b)* Manchester city council and *(b)* Barnet borough council asking them to verify the findings of the review into their published admission arrangements. [194957]

Jim Knight: The officials wrote to Barnet, Manchester and Northampton local authorities on 10 March 2008.

Schools: Disadvantaged

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools had (i) less than 10 per cent. of children, (ii) less than 20 per cent. of children and (iii) more than 50 per cent. of children entitled to free school dinners in (A) 1997 and (B) 2007; [193061]

(2) what proportion of schools in each *(a)* region and *(b)* London local authority in pupil entitlement to free school dinners declined between 1997 and 2007. [193062]

Jim Knight: Information from the School Census shows that, taking primary and secondary schools together, in 1997 in England 34 per cent. of schools had less than 10 per cent., 60 per cent. had less than 20 per cent. and 8 per cent. had more than 50 per cent. of children entitled to free school dinners. In 2007 these figures were respectively 48 per cent., 70 per cent. and 4 per cent.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the schools budget was spent on *(a)* books and learning resources and *(b)* ICT equipment in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [192673]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Books and Learning Resources

	£
Nursery	7,234,593
Primary	533,651,478
Secondary	743,343,412
Special	54,318,230
Total	1,338,547,713

(b) The Department does not collect records of expenditure on ICT equipment at school level; however in 2007-08, we allocated £833 million to support ICT in schools, including for the purchase of new equipment. The Department does not ring-fence capital allocations to local authorities. Accordingly, it does not maintain records of capital spending in respect of ICT equipment.

Schools: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to local authorities in north-east Lincolnshire through the dedicated schools grant in each year since its introduction; how many *(a)* Sure Start centres, *(b)* children's centres, *(c)* academies and *(d)* special schools there are in each such authority; and how much was spent on school buildings in those authorities in each year since 1997. [192091]

Jim Knight: The dedicated schools grant for north-east Lincolnshire was £93.904 million in 2006-07 and £92.859 million in 2007-08. The indicative DSG allocations for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £91.129 million, £92.952 million and £94.811 million respectively. These are based on the Department's pupil projections for these years. The final allocations will reflect actual pupil numbers.

There are:

(a) and *(b)* currently nine designated Sure Start children's centres;

(c) three academies; and

(d) two community special schools.

The capital allocation for north-east Lincolnshire is as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	0.9
1998-99	3.5
1999-2000	35
2000-01	6.1
2001-02	4.4
2002-03	9.2
2003-04	7.7
2004-05	7.5
2005-06	7.3
2006-07	[1]23.6
2007-08	19.9

[1] The large allocation in 2006-07 includes £11.9 million of targeted capital funding.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many times schools have exercised the power to randomly screen pupils using metal detectors since October 2006; and how many weapons have been recovered as a result of such searches; [193810]

(2) how many searches without consent have been conducted by schools of pupils suspected of carrying a weapon since May 2007; and how many weapons have been recovered as a result of such searches. [193811]

Jim Knight: We announced in October 2006 that schools can randomly screen pupils for weapons using metal detectors and we introduced a power in May 2007 for head teachers to search without consent any pupil they suspected of carrying a weapon. We do not collect figures showing the number of such screenings or searches or the number of weapons seized by either method. We shall review the search power within three years of implementation when we shall also consider the effects of screening.

Schools: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the 100 most improved schools based on sustained improvement between 2004 and 2007 are located in London; and what proportion of secondary schools are located in London. [193059]

Jim Knight: 21 of the 100 most improved schools based on sustained improvement between 2004 and 2007 are located in London. This figure is based on improvement in the proportion of 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including English and Mathematics.

There are 712 secondary schools located in London. This is 14.1 per cent. of all secondary schools.

Schools: Sustainable Development

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what publicly funded sources of information are available to head teachers who want to *(a)* reduce the carbon footprint of their school and *(b)* promote environmentally friendly behaviour within their school and community; [193071]

(2) what sources of public funds are available to head teachers to take steps to reduce the carbon footprint of their school; [193072]

(3) what sources of public funds are available for head teachers who wish to spend money on the deployment of renewable energy technology within their school; [193073]

(4) what sources of public funds are available to support head teachers who wish to promote energy efficiency in their school; [193074]

(5) what plans he has to increase the amount of *(a)* information and *(b)* funding for head teachers who wish to (i) reduce the carbon footprint of their school and (ii) promote environmentally friendly behaviour in the school and community. [193075]

Jim Knight: The National Framework for Sustainable Schools provides an overarching structure for schools to consider the impact of their curriculum, their campus and their place in the community on the environment and on sustainable development more widely. It supports schools to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that young people will need to ensure their futures in a sustainable world.

The Department has funded the production of the following resources to support head teachers and other school stakeholders in reducing the carbon footprint of their schools and to promote environmentally friendly behaviour within schools and communities:

A Sustainable Schools website which is hosted on www.teachernet.gov.uk and provides links to sources of information and support from a range of public and third sector bodies.

A self-evaluation tool (s3) has been designed to help schools evaluate their current efforts to create a sustainable school and to inform their next steps.

Guidance for governors (including a training package) to help them understand the benefits of sustainable schools, and provide the leadership necessary to position sustainability at the heart of school life.

Guidance for bursars—a short handbook addressing energy, water, waste, travel and procurement issues in schools.

Guidance for teachers—curriculum resources and information about professional development.

Top tips guidance on the following "doorways" in the sustainable schools national framework: energy and water, sustainable travel, and waste.

The Carbon Detectives' Kit for children and young people to help them measure their school's carbon footprint and set targets to reduce it.

The National College for School Leadership (NCSL) are currently developing a resource for school leaders which will provide practical tips for developing sustainability.

In addition to the advice and materials already available to support the National Framework for Sustainable Schools, we will shortly publish new guidance called "Planning a Sustainable School" which will enable schools to develop strategic plans to drive school improvement through Sustainable development. The guidance will be available in March 2008.

The Department has no plans to list the sources of public funding available to head teachers for investment in energy efficiency, deployment of renewable energy or the reduction of a school's carbon footprint. This service is already available from government agencies and other organisations, which provide information on funding available for these measures nationally and regionally, and which list both public and private sources of funding.

Under the New Relationship with Schools we are committed to high levels of delegated budget and fewer specific funding streams—so we are not inventing another pot of funding that schools would have to account for separately. A Sustainable school works smarter with its existing budget. "A Bursar's guide to Sustainable school operation" outlines measures that can be taken to reduce a school's environmental impact and make real cash savings while enhancing the teaching and learning element of Sustainable working practices within the school.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in care who are starting secondary school in September 2008 have been offered a place at their first preference school. [192796]

Jim Knight: Legislation now requires admission authorities to give highest priority to children in care when deciding who should have places if schools are oversubscribed.

The Department is collecting secondary school preference data from local authorities for the first time this year, which will include the number of families obtaining an offer at their first, second, third or lower preference school in each authority area. However, the data provided will not identify individual or specific groups of children. The data were published on 11 March 2008 on the DCSF Research Gateway:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children did not gain a place at their first choice of secondary school in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years; [194965]

(2) how many children did not gain a place at their first choice of primary school in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years. [194966]

Jim Knight: This is the first year that local authorities have been required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers of made to parents on national offer day. These data were published on the DCSF research gateway (www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway) on 11 March at local authority, regional and national levels. Data have not been collected at constituency level. Figures for Lancashire show that 13 per cent. (1,748) of children did not obtain a place at their first choice of secondary school. We do not collect data relating to primary school offers.

Students: Plagiarism

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on regulation of companies which offer essay writing services for students. [193722]

Jim Knight: We have no powers to regulate such companies. In relation to accredited qualifications in England, the awarding bodies are responsible for putting in place procedures to ensure the authenticity of candidates' coursework. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) develops guidance on behalf of the awarding bodies for dealing with instances of suspected malpractice.

It places a responsibility on staff in schools and colleges who must sign a written declaration that students' coursework is authentic. Students must also sign a declaration that the coursework they submit is their own work. The guidance is reviewed annually in light of experience.

Vocational Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned since 1997 on the returns to *(a)* individuals and *(b)* the economy from vocational education; and if he will make a statement. [174262]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has commissioned a number of research projects examining the returns to individuals and the economy from vocational education since 1997. Reports in the departmental research series are as follows:

Ref: DCSF-CEE-02-07 "Returns to Qualifications in England: Updating the Evidence Base on Level 2 and Level 3 Vocational Qualifications", Jenkins et al (2007)

Ref: RB834—"Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications: A Cost-Benefit Analysis", Macintosh (2007)

Ref: RB370—"Further Analysis of the Returns to Academic and Vocational Qualifications", Macintosh et al (2002)

Ref: 2001074—"Literature Review on Rates of Return to Higher Education", London School of Economics (2002)

Ref: 2002023—"Labour Market Returns to Graduates from Less Advantaged Backgrounds in the Context of Expansion: A Review of the Literature", London School of Economics (2002)

Ref: 2002041—"The returns arising from learning undertaken as adults", Department for Education and Employment (2002)

Ref: RB313—"Returns to Education: Evidence from the Labour Force Survey", Walker and Zhu (2001)

Ref: RR254—"The Returns to Education: A Review of Evidence, Issues and Deficiencies in the Literature", Harmon and Walker (2001)

Ref: RR192—"The Returns to Academic Vocational and Basic Skills in Britain", Dearden et al (2000)

Ref: 28199—"Returns to Education - evidence using a sample of UK twins", Institute of Education (2000)

Ref: 15696—"Returns to Higher Education Qualifications", Institute of Fiscal Studies (1998)

Ref: 16398—"Returns to Education and Training - a Review of Evidence", Institute of Fiscal Studies (1998)

In addition, the Department co-funds the Centre for the Economics of Education. This research centre has also carried out a lot of research on the returns to the economy and individuals from vocational education and training. Their publications can be found on their website at: http://cee.lse.ac.uk

The Department will continue to monitor the returns to education and training, both through commissioned research and through internal analysis of data. It is vital that we gain as full an understanding as possible of the returns to training and qualifications. This will enable us to make sure that the qualifications we deliver in future provide economically valuable skills for individuals, employers and the economy as a whole, and help us to achieve the ambitions for a high-skilled work force set out in the Leitch report o[illegible]ills.

Young People: Crime

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will include issues relating to crime among young people, including anti-social behaviour and knife crime, in the national curriculum. [191805]

Jim Knight: The revised curriculum for Citizenship in secondary schools provides opportunities to explore the issue of crime, antisocial behaviour and carrying weapons through an examination of the concepts of democracy and justice, weighing up what is fair and unfair in different situations, understanding that justice is fundamental to a democratic society and exploring the role of law in maintaining order and resolving conflict. Through the concept of rights and responsibilities pupils can explore legal and moral rights and the responsibilities that go with these.

In addition, the framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) provides opportunities for pupils to be taught to recognise and manage risk to help them make safer choices and to recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety. Pupils learn about developing relationships, recognising their rights and responsibilities and that their actions have consequences. As PSHE is non-statutory, the implementation of the subject is decided by schools on an individual basis.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 March 2008

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Opportunities

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what analysis the Government has undertaken of the extent of caste discrimination in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [194347]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has conducted, with stakeholders, an informal scoping exercise to learn more about the extent to which some communities believe caste is a continuing social phenomenon within British society and to identify any evidence that individuals had been discriminated against on these grounds. The analysis of the responses has not yet been completed.

WALES

Fly Tipping

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for what time period evidence from members of the public, on illegal dumping of waste, is retained by the Environment Agency. [194547]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Environment Agency has a formal records management procedure which addresses retention issues. Pursuant to that procedure, the Environment Agency's Legal Services would generally retain its files relating to a contaminated land issue, under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, for five years following the conclusion of that matter. The further retention of that file would then be reviewed.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House what payments her Office made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194312]

Helen Goodman: None.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK is providing to Afghanistan in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [194046]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the Department for International Development's expenditure plans for 2007-08 were published in its Annual Report 2007. Planned expenditure for Afghanistan in 2007-08 is £107 million. Final outturn data for 2007-08 will not be available until after the end of the fiscal year.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194984]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has settled fewer than five claims for sex discrimination brought by DFID staff in the last five years. All action was settled out of court in one year, 2003. There were no claims on the grounds of race or sexual orientation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accountancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1658W, on department accountability, how many distinct budget lines relating to her Department's expenditure and forecasts are reported to the Treasury monthly. [191474]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the Home Office Departmental Report 2007 (Cm 7096) tables 5.2 and 5.3, pages 106 to 109.

These tables show the resource and capital budgets at departmental objective level and their constituent budgets. The number of lines shown in the tables may vary from year to year depending on departmental policy and machinery of government changes.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to the alcohol arrest referral pilots. [193461]

Mr. Coaker: The total amount of funding which has been allocated to the alcohol arrest referral pilot is £600,000: £330,000 for the year 2007-08 and £270,000 for the year 2008-09.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts were issued in each of the last two years; and what proportion have been complied with. [193460]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office has issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

A National Audit Office study in December 2006 found that such interventions were highly effective in combating antisocial behaviour.

65 per cent. of people stopped behaving antisocially after one intervention;

86 per cent. after two; and

93 per cent. after three.

Cannabis

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who try cannabis for the first time each year. [187427]

Jacqui Smith: The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides information on the prevalence and trends of illicit drug use among 16 to 59-year-olds in England and Wales. The BCS does collect information on the use of cannabis at least once in a lifetime, use in the last year and use in the last month, but it does not routinely collect information on the number of people who tried cannabis for the first time each year.

Questions on age of first use of illicit drugs were included in the 2003-04 BCS and this showed that the most frequent age of first use of cannabis was 18 years.

The 2006-07 BCS shows that between 1998 and 2006-07 the proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds reporting use of cannabis in the last year has decreased from 10.3 per cent. to 8.2 per cent.

Crime Prevention: Retail Trade

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reduce retail crime. [193457]

Mr. Coaker: The Government will continue to work in partnership with retail organisations to tackle retail crime. As part of this work we have set up, with the British Retail Consortium, a National Retail Crime Steering Group to provide an opportunity for discussion of retailers' crime concerns and to devise strategies to deal with these.

In line with the new "Crime Reduction Strategy—A new partnership 2008-11" the work on reducing retail crime will focus on three key areas: raising the profile of crimes against business; improving engagement between retailers and crime reduction partnerships; and ensuring local partnerships have the guidance and the "tools" to develop local responses.

One of the "tools" is being developed by the Perpetuity group with Home Office funding. The group is developing a crime reduction tool for small and medium-sized retailers to design out crime in their stores and significantly reduce the opportunities for shop thieves to operate.

Crime: Retail Trade

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of retail crime in each of the last five years. [192389]

Mr. Coaker: No estimates of the cost of retail crime have been published by the Home Office in the last five years.

Crime: Rural Areas

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1966W, to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone), on crime: rural areas, how many offences were recorded by the police in rural police force areas in each year from 1997-98 to 2001-02. [192785]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Total offences recorded by the police in rural police force areas[1]

Financial year	*Number of offences*
1997-98	625,540
1998-99[2]	704,144
1999-2000	710,640
2000-01	678,161
2001-02	747,283

[1] The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ('A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods') guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 'Rural Crime England and Wales'. The data cover 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'most rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'less rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

[2] The coverage of recorded crime was expanded in 1998-99 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of her Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182996]

Mr. Byrne: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. This is done with cost efficiency in mind and adherence to the strict rules on the propriety of Government advertising. In recent years, the Home Office has produced advertising to help empower people to protect themselves from crime, warn young people of the dangers of illegal drugs and help recruit police officers.

The following table sets out advertising spend for the last five complete financial years, broken down by (i) advertising media spend; (ii) recruitment advertising spend; (iii) overall spend, and (iv) advertising as a percentage of that spend. Providing further historical figures would incur disproportionate costs. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

	Advertising (£)	*Recruitment advertising (£)*	*Total Home Office spend (£)*	*Total advertising as a percentage of total Home Office spend*
2002-03	9,900,000	6,498	14,559,264,000	0.07
2003-04	12,480,000	255,533	12,716,909,000	0.10
2004-05	11,052,000	204,804	12,954,619,000	0.09
2005-06	9,333,000	217,396	13,374,802,000	0.07
2006-07	13,658,000	22,004	14,389,812,000	0.10

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* subject to disciplinary procedures short of dismissal, (c) moved to less sensitive duties due to shortcomings in performance and (d) given early retirement in each of the last five years. [187250]

Jacqui Smith: The number of staff *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* subject to formal disciplinary procedures for poor performance within Home Office headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and the Criminal Records Bureau, is set out in the following table.

	Dismissed	*Disciplined short of dismissal*
2003	—	—
2004	0	15
2005	—	13
2006	5	38
2007	12	62

Information prior to 2005 is not held centrally within Home Office HQ or the Border and Immigration Agency and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Where fewer than five members of staff were disciplined or dismissed, further information has been withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Information on the number of staff moved to less sensitive duties due to shortcomings in performance is not recorded centrally within Home Office HQ or the Border and Immigration Agency.

Fewer than five members of staff within the Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau were moved to less sensitive duties due to poor performance, and further information on those cases has been withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The number of staff *(d)* given early retirement within Home Office headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table.

	Number
2002-03	10
2003-04	18
2004-05	13
2005-06	141
2006-07	125
2007-08 to date	56

Departmental Public Relations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on external media relations during the 12 months to December 2007. [185290]

Jacqui Smith: Media relations for the whole Department and agencies are handled by the Home Office based press office and the Borders and Immigration Agency regional network of five press officers. The total cost of providing these services for the 12 months to December 2007 was £2,120,357[1]

Entry Clearances

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many visa cases were personally considered by a Minister in her Department in 2007; [181382]

(2) what percentage of visa cases which were considered by Ministers in her Department as a result of the original decision by the Border and Immigration Agency was overturned in 2007; and if she will make a statement; [181383]

(3) in what circumstances Ministers in her Department consider overturning a decision by the Border and Immigration Agency in a visa case; and if she will make a statement. [181404]

Mr. Byrne: I refer to Lin Homer's letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 18 February 2008 which addresses the issue of ministerial consideration of individual cases.

The specific information requested in (181382) and (181383) could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking: Children

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 793W, on human trafficking: children, who the Metropolitan Police Service Gold Commander for Operation Caddy was. [190840]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules govern applications for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* British citizenship by Gurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1 July 1997; and if she will make a statement. [193711]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The rules applying to applications for leave to remain in the United Kingdom by former Gurkhas who completed their service on or after 1 July 1997 are set out in paragraphs 276E to 276K of the Immigration Rules. This information is contained on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/part7/

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[1] Includes the costs of the functions now attributable to MOJ until their transfer to the new Department in May 2007.

Former Gurkhas who are unable to fulfil the requirements of the Immigration Rules, including those who were discharged from service before 1 July 1997, may benefit from concessionary arrangements on a case by case basis where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. Guidance for dealing with these cases is contained in Immigration Directorate Instructions, chapter 15, section 2A, at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter15/

Gurkha soldiers who have completed their service in the British Army and wish to apply for British citizenship must make a successful application for naturalisation under section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. There is no distinction between those who enlisted before or after 1 July 1997.

Policy requirements and procedures for handling nationality applications are available for viewing on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/nationalityinstructions/nichapter18/

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* British citizenship by Ghurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1 July 1997 are being processed by her Department. [193712]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: There are 61 applications for naturalisation as a British citizen currently outstanding where Nepal is given as the place of birth. Without analysing each file and making further inquiries where necessary it is not possible to establish how many of these involve former Ghurkhas and if so, whether they were discharged before, on or after 1 July 1997.

This information has been derived from local management information and is the best available. It is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* British citizenship by Gurkha soldiers who completed their service (i) after and (ii) before 1st July 1997 were (A) received and (B) granted in each year since 1997. [193713]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: The new immigration rules enabling Gurkhas discharged on or after 1 July 1997 to apply for settlement became effective on 25 October 2004. Immigration data for applications and grants of indefinite leave to remain relating to former Gurkhas prior to 2004 are not available. Nor is it possible to provide a breakdown between those who retired before 1 July 1997 and those who retired on or after this date. The data for applications received and granted for the years 2004 to present are as follows:

	Granted	*Received*
2004	58	65
2005	990	1,070
2006	2,527	2,733
2007	87	211
2008	5	9

This information has been derived from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

The elevated figures for 2005 and 2006 reflect the higher number of cases dealt with under the transitional arrangements. Further details of the transitional arrangements are contained in the Immigration Directorate Instructions, chapter 15, section 2A, available for viewing on the Border and Immigration website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter15/

Data on applications and grants of citizenship to former Gurkhas cannot be identified electronically and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Individual Support Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent by her Department to encourage greater use of individual support orders; [193458]

(2) what proportion of antisocial behaviour orders had an individual support order attached in the most recent period for which figures are available. [193462]

Mr. Coaker: We made £500,000 available to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in June 2005 to encourage Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to apply to the courts for individual support orders when making an application for an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) on a young person aged 10 to 17. Funding from 2006 onwards was made available through the £45 million uplift given to the Youth Justice Board as part of their youth prevention budget. In 2007-08 the Youth Justice Board invested £31.2 million in grants to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to run a range of targeted prevention programmes. This investment supports over 400 evidence-based programmes across England and Wales. All of these programmes are available to support young people involved in antisocial behaviour and crime in order to reduce their involvement, as part of a tiered approach that involves ISOs where appropriate.

Up until 31 December 2005, 5 per cent. ISOs were attached to ASBOs on young people in 5 per cent. of cases. New data are due to be published shortly which are expected to show the results of the joint Home Office, Youth Justice Board and Her Majesty's Court Service to increase awareness of ISOs.

Migration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether EEA nationals fall within the scope of the fund to manage the transitional impact of migration proposed in the Path to Citizenship Green Paper; and if she will make a statement. [193930]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: The Green Paper "The Path to Citizenship" published on 20 February 2008 proposes the creation of a new fund to help alleviate the transitional pressures we know migration can bring. The fund, if created, will allow us to release limited amounts of money quickly and responsively.

Money for the fund will be raised through increases to certain fees for immigration applications. Under European law, EEA nationals exercising or seeking to exercise treaty rights in the UK are not subject to these fees. We will work closely across Government to develop a clear and transparent methodology for the appropriate surcharge with the aim of the fund operating from April 2009.

Migration: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much she expects her Department to raise for the fund to manage the transitional impact of migration announced in the Path to Citizenship Green Paper in each of the last five years of its operation; how these figures were calculated; and if she will make a statement; [193481]

(2) what estimate she has made of the operating costs of the fund to manage the transitional impact of migration announced in the Path to Citizenship Green Paper in each of the first five years of its operation; [193482]

(3) what estimate she has made of the average contribution to be to the fund to manage the transitional impact of migration announced in the Path to Citizenship Green Paper by each new migrant, broken down by number of dependants. [193483]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 11 March 2008]*: 'The Path to Citizenship' published on 20 February 2008, outlines the Government's plans for a third phase of migration reform. That is reform of the path to British citizenship to reinforce our shared values. The consultation concludes on 14 May 2008.

One of the proposals is to create a new fund to manage the transitional impact of migration, to which we will ask newcomers to contribute extra in payments to the public purse to help alleviate the transitional pressures we know migration can bring. The fund will allow us to release limited amounts of money quickly and responsively.

We would aim to raise tens of millions of pounds with the fund operating from April 2009. We will work closely across Government to develop a clear and transparent methodology for the appropriate surcharge, including who should pay them, once the consultation has closed.

National High Tech Crime Unit: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in the National High Tech Crime Unit in 2005; and how many people are employed in the e-crime unit in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [187274]

Jacqui Smith: The number of people employed in the National High Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) varied from time to time but in July 2005 there were 54 persons employed in the NHTCU.

The budgeted capacity of the SOCA e-crime unit is 58 posts. On 25 January 2008 51 of these posts were filled.

National Retail Crime Steering Group

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the members of the National Retail Crime Steering Group are; and what its terms of reference are. [193456]

Mr. Coaker: The National Retail Crime Steering Group is chaired by myself. The members are: the British Retail Consortium, Tesco, the John Lewis Partnership, the Co-op, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Association of Convenience Stores, the Action Against Business Crime Group, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and the Home Office Business Crime Team.

The terms of reference for the group are as follows:

> National Retail Crime Reduction Strategy focusing on reducing retail crime. It will improve the co-ordination and delivery of retail crime reduction initiatives by all stakeholders.
>
> 1. Assess and improve the tools available to measure the scale of retail crime nationally, and encourage Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to evaluate retail crime reduction initiatives locally.
>
> 2. Identify and document initiatives currently being undertaken by Government, police, local business crime reduction partnerships and retailers to combat business crime.
>
> 3. Identify and promote good practice for retailers to adopt in working with Government, police and local partnerships, to reduce retail crime and the underlying causes of crime.
>
> 4. Assess and improve local engagement between retailers and neighbourhood police, taking into account local crime reduction plans.
>
> 5. Investigate the opportunities for improving retailer involvement in Home Office and Ministry of Justice policy development.

National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been seized by the National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit since the Serious Organised Crime Agency assumed responsibility for the unit in April 2006. [192832]

Jacqui Smith: The National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit (NTFIU) is not, nor has ever been, under the responsibility of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. The NTFIU is part of the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorist Command.

Since April 2006 the NTFIU have seized £1,344,271 in cash.

Offensive Weapons: Football

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many football spectators were charged with possession of weapons at matches in each of the last five years for which records are available. [193637]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides details of the number of individuals charged, cautioned and convicted for possession of an offensive weapon in connection with regulated football matches in England and Wales.

Number of individuals charged, cautioned and convicted for possession of an offensive weapon in connection with regulated football matches in England and Wales

Football season	*Charged*	*Convicted*	*Cautioned*
2002-03	23	17	8
2003-04	18	16	3
2004-05	14	10	6
2005-06	13	12	5
2006-07	14	[1]8	9

[1] A number of prosecutions for offences committed during season 2006-07 are currently in the Criminal Justice System.

Source:

Football Banning Orders Authority

Organised Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place a copy of the report from the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers on gun and gang crime in the Library. [194287]

Mr. Coaker: In August 2007, the Home Secretary requested an assessment from ACPO of the scale and nature of the problem of gun crime, particularly as it relates to young people and gangs. This report was produced as an internal discussion document to inform the developing debate and has been discussed at meetings of the Ministerial Taskforce overseeing the Tackling Gangs Action Programme. The report is also informing on-going research work and a guide for local authorities.

The Home Office and ACPO are not proposing to publish this internal document. The guide for local authorities will be published by May 2008.

Organised Crime: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the ministerial task force for the Tackling Gangs Action Programme has met since its establishment. [194333]

Mr. Coaker: The first meeting of the ministerial task force for the Tackling Gangs Action Programme was held on 19 September 2007. Since then, it has met on 24 October, 28 November and 22 January. The next meeting is on 18 March 2008.

Police: Surveillance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police applications to covertly monitor and record conversations between defendants and their legal representatives were approved in each of the last five years. [190302]

Jacqui Smith: The Government do not comment on such matters. However, in his recently-published report the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Christopher Rose, stated that since at least 2005 there were no such applications and that there was no reason to believe that there was any unauthorised surveillance taking place.

Terrorism

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what authorisations she has made under section 48 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [192689]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has made no such authorisations.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68[illegible]W, on terrorism, how many days Lord Carlile of Berriew worked as the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation in each year since his appointment. [192797]

Jacqui Smith: As indicated in his reports for the following periods, Lord Carlile of Berriew has worked for the following number of days as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation:

40 days on the report of the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2001;

40 days on the report of the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2002 and 2003;

40 days on the report of the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2004; and

50 days on the report of the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2005.

Although he does not explicitly mention the number of days he worked in his reports for 2006 onwards, I understand that Lord Carlile of Berriew worked some 69 days as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation between 11 April and 31 December in 2006 and for 42 days as independent reviewer of terrorism legislation between January and 25 August 2007. The figures for the period post 25 August are not yet available.

Theft: Metals

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the value of metal stolen in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [193854]

Mr. Coaker: No estimates are available from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. It is not possible to identify the number of thefts where metal was stolen. Such offences are recorded in the "Other theft" classification and cannot be separately identified from other items stolen.

In addition, the Home Office no longer collects recorded crime statistics on the value of property stolen. This data collection ceased in the late 1990s because the data were not considered to be reliable.

Theft: Vehicles

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were *(a)* reported stolen and *(b)* recovered in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area. [193853]

Mr. Coaker: The available data relating to offences of theft of a motor vehicle are given in the following table. The Home Office ceased to collect data on the number of vehicles recovered in 2001-02.

Offences of theft of a motor vehicle recorded by the police

			Number of offences
Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	7,070	6,280	6,108
Bedfordshire	1,965	2,185	1,882
British Transport Police	811	541	457
Cambridgeshire	2,720	2,265	2,347
Cheshire	3,599	3,503	2,935
Cleveland	3,616	2,901	2,256
Cumbria	1,101	1,087	948
Derbyshire	2,785	2,693	2,525
Devon and Cornwall[1]	3,256	3,058	3,025
Dorset	1,767	1,499	1,395
Durham	2,088	2,134	1,889
Dyfed-Powys	727	619	588
Essex	6,419	6,253	5,629
Gloucestershire	1,949	1,706	1,451
Greater Manchester	18,794	17,001	14,877
Gwent	3,189	2,694	2,633
Hampshire	4,871	4,394	4,726
Hertfordshire	3,445	3,361	2,821
Humberside	6,096	4,857	4,067
Kent	6,181	6,438	5,650
Lancashire	4,514	3,849	3,738
Leicestershire	3,506	2,566	2,772
Lincolnshire	1,833	1,690	1,608
London, City of	97	74	75
Merseyside	9,354	7,161	6,198
Metropolitan Police	48,026	43,463	37,599
Norfolk	1,851	1,577	1,468
Northamptonshire	3,415	2,896	2,731
Northumbria	5,189	4,748	3,883
North Wales	1,740	1,486	1,607
North Yorkshire	2,097	2,154	1,585
Nottinghamshire	6,284	4,798	4,609
South Wales	7,336	6,896	6,484
South Yorkshire	8,005	7,648	7,481
Staffordshire	3,470	3,411	3,235
Suffolk	1,645	1,264	1,408
Surrey	2,413	2,229	2,205
Sussex	4,379	3,626	3,353
Thames Valley	7,651	6,829	6,384
Warwickshire	1,919	1,75[illegible]	1,696
West Mercia	3,179	2,629	2,340
West Midlands	17,091	14,482	12,249
West Yorkshire	13,961	10,455	9,469
Wiltshire	1,328	1,031	1,024
Total	242,732	214,182	193,410

Note:
Includes aggravated vehicle taking.

Vladimir Ismaili

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008 on Vladimir Ismaili, what steps have been taken to discover the whereabouts of Vladimir Ismaili; whether enquiries have been made of the Albanian government on whether he has returned to that country; whether he will be deported if he is discovered in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [188543]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* We continue to make every effort to ensure Mr. Ismaili serves the sentence imposed on him by Manchester Crown court. However, the details of the work undertaken in this matter are operationally sensitive.

Consideration for deportation will commence once he is in custody beginning 12 to18 months prior to the completion of his sentence in line with the current policy on deportation of foreign national prisoners.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what air quality management areas there are in the West Midlands, broken down by *(a)* year of designation and *(b)* local authority; and where they are. [193606]

Jonathan Shaw: A list of local authorities in the West Midlands with air quality management areas, and their date of designation, is provided in the following table. Some air quality management areas cover specific areas where air quality objectives in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 are being, or are likely to be, exceeded, although local authorities often choose to designate their entire area as an air quality management area. Details on individual air quality management areas are available on local authority websites, which can be accessed through the UK Air Quality Archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/list.php.

Authority	*Date of effect*
Birmingham City Council	10 January 2003
Bridgnorth DC	1 April 2005
Bromsgrove DC	21 July 2001
Cannock Chase Council	28 July 2006
Coventry City Council	1 August 2003
	31 August 2004
Dudley MBC	10 March 2003
	18 April 2005
	6 December 2007
East Staffordshire BC	26 February 2007
Herefordshire Council	23 November 2001
	1 March 2006
North Warwickshire BC	1 March 2001
Oswestry BC	1 June 2003
Rugby Borough Council	16 December 2004
Sandwell MBC	26 July 2005
Shrewsbury and Atcham BC	1 May 2003
	1 March 2006
South Staffordshire DC	1 March 2006
Stoke-on-Trent CC	23 November 2001

Authority	*Date of effect*
	15 August 2002
	4 April 2006
Walsall MBC	1 April 2006
Warwick District Council	20 December 2004
Wolverhampton CC	22 March 2005
Wychavon DC	1 September 2007
Wyre Forest DC	6 January 2003

Alcoholic Drinks: Imports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions there are on the importation from the EU of lower alcohol wine where the alcohol content has been reduced using new technologies. [193970]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding 13 March answer 2008]*: Wine produced and marketed in the EU must comply with the requirements set out under the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for Wine (Council Regulation (EEC) 1493/99).

Currently, the use of spinning cone and reverse osmosis technology to reduce the alcohol content of EU wine is not permitted under the CMO. However, we understand that this technology is being trialled on an experimental basis in a number of member states.

Wine imported into the EU is subject to the same rules and standards as wine produced in the EU. However, the EU has agreed bilateral trade agreements with a number of member states. These provide for the mutual recognition of approved wine-making practices in the countries concerned, including the use of alcohol-lowering technologies, such as spinning cone and reverse osmosis.

Angling

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measurements he plans to use to assess the effectiveness of steps to improve the UK recreational bass fishery; [194335]

(2) if he will estimate the potential value of the UK's recreational sea angling sector to the economy if management policies for recreational sea fisheries were directed towards optimising participation levels; and if he will assess the likely impact of such a policy on the creation of business opportunities. [194336]

Jonathan Shaw: Where the measures I have announced, to provide benefits for recreational bass fishing and for recreational sea angling in general, result in detailed proposals for legislation, a consultation accompanied by an impact assessment would need to be carried out. The impact assessment would include an assessment of the costs and benefits of any proposals in relation to individual anglers and to businesses dependent on angling. The Drew report, funded by DEFRA, into the economic impact of recreational sea angling in England and Wales provides some baseline data against which any improvements could be measured.

Angling: Licensing

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to proceed with the introduction of a sea angling licence; and if he will make a statement. [194586]

Jonathan Shaw: I met sea angling representatives at the Angling summit on 18 February where a number of concerns were raised with me regarding the introduction of a chargeable licence for sea angling. I have also discussed the issue direct with anglers around the coast, as have my officials. In view of the concerns expressed, including the extent to which sea anglers expected to see benefits from the charge, I have decided not to proceed with enabling powers in the Marine Bill to introduce a sea angling licence.

I will, none the less, continue with a package of other measures that aim to provide benefits for anglers, including a review of nursery areas for the protection of bass stocks and of inshore netting, and a pilot study on area-based restrictions to support sea angling. I have also recently announced measures to increase protection of tope, a key species for anglers.

I will reconsider the arguments for introducing a recreational sea angling licence at some stage in the future in the light of progress on the aforementioned measures.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to permitting the use of cypermethrin for spray use only to protect sheep from midges which may transmit bluetongue disease. [192005]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has published "Bluetongue - Guide on the disease vector and potential mitigation measures" which emphasises that no single measure will prevent midges biting animals.

However, a combination of measures will sequentially reduce the risk of biting and reduce the risk of animals becoming infected with bluetongue. These measures may include the removal of midge breeding sites, insecticide use and considering the geographical location of animals on the farm, for instance, moving animals to areas of low midge activity at certain times.

No insecticides are authorised specifically for use against 'Culicoides', the midge species which spreads bluetongue virus. Synthetic pyrethroids such as Deltamethrin and Cypermethrin have performed best in tests. However, they do not entirely remove the risk of an animal contracting bluetongue in their short period of protection (one to two days at best).

Such insecticides are also very toxic to insect life in rivers and streams. Therefore, livestock keepers should also be aware of the environmental effects of using these products. Further guidance is available on the DEFRA website.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* conducted and *(c)* evaluated on the effects of the use of electric shock collars on dogs; [193841]

(2) how much his Department has spent on research into electric shock collar use on dogs in each of the last 10 years. [193842]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006, the Department carried out a literature search and evaluated all the available peer-reviewed scientific studies on the welfare consequences of electronic training aids for dogs. Because the available evidence was not sufficient to fully inform policy, we have commissioned research to run from 2007 to 2010 at a cost of £469,000. We have also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, an advisory body on companion animal welfare matters, to take forward an independent study of the available evidence on the use of these electronic training aids to complement our funded research. We have not commissioned or conducted any other research on this subject during the last 10 years.

Dogs: Licensing

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will introduce dog licences; [194531]

(2) if he will introduce compulsory micro-chipping of dogs. [194532]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: DEFRA is not planning to introduce mandatory dog licenses nor compulsory microchipping of dogs, with the exception of types of dogs covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997) which must be microchipped by their owners. DEFRA supports voluntary identification, whereby dog owners voluntarily undertake to have their pets permanently identified and registered on nationwide databases.

Dogs: Noise

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are available to deal with noise pollution from barking dogs; and if he will make a statement. [194032]

Jonathan Shaw: Local authorities have a statutory duty to investigate complaints in England and Wales under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) lists what is capable of being a statutory nuisance. At section 79 (1) (a) is

> "any premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance";

At section 79 (f) is

> "any animal kept in such a place or manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance";

and at section 79 (g) is

> "noise emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance".

"Premises" can be dwellings; places of business, trade or industry; land; beaches; vessels; and the sea (for noise nuisance "premises" can also be vehicles and loudspeakers on the street).

In 2005, DEFRA published "Constant Barking Can Be Avoided: Offering Guidance To Dog Owners", for use by environmental health practitioners and dog wardens. DEFRA also published the leaflet "Is your dog barking too much?" for the owners of noisy dogs.

Dredging

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed marine aggregate dredging with his counterparts in the European Union; what the outcome of such discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [193744]

Jonathan Shaw: I have had no recent discussions with European Union Ministers on marine aggregate dredging.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of sand and gravel extracted from the coastline through marine aggregate dredging was exported to another EU member state in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [193745]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA do not record detailed statistical information pertaining to the export of marine aggregates since this is generated for, and kept by, the Crown Estate.

Exports of marine aggregates from UK licensed areas account for about one-third of the total production. It is important to note that this material is not extracted from the UK coastline, but from licensed offshore dredging areas following a comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

The following table (courtesy of the Crown Estate) outlines the percentage of aggregates extracted from Crown Estate licences within the UK seabed.

	Total UK aggregates landed from Crown Estate licensed areas (tonnes)	*Percentage UK landed aggregates exported to EU member states*
1996	19,392,935	35
1997	19,959,782	34
1998	20,471,191	34
1999	20,910,000	35
2000	20,684,340	35
2001	21,077,968	33
2002	20,361,779	30
2003	20,107,368	30
2004	19,668,769	31
2005	19,562,636	33
2006	20,145,414	33

Further information can be found in the British Geological Survey Report entitled 'The strategic importance of the marine aggregate industry to the UK' at:

http://www.bmapa.org/downloads/BMAP_download.pdf

or from the Crown Estate website at:

http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the independent review of the safety of UK facilities handling the foot and mouth disease virus; and if he will make a statement. [188726]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Professor Brian Spratt's Independent Review of the safety of UK facilities handling foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus made 14 recommendations, all of which the Government accepted, agreed to or agreed to in principle.

The recommendations in relation to immediate action on containment have all been addressed. Progress in implementing them is kept under close review through regular inspections by DEFRA and the Health and Safety Executive. In relation to the recommendations on further action on biosecurity and biosafety, the chief veterinary officer recently wrote to Merial and the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) to remind them of the importance of clarity of roles, responsibilities and effective communications. Once we received assurances that sufficient mechanisms were in place, and following progress in relation to the immediate actions on containment, Merial's licence to handle specified animal pathogens was restored on 25 February 2008. DEFRA officials continue to work closely with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate about inspections at Merial.

In relation to the recommendations on funding, design and governance, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council established the Beringer Review to seek to improve the funding, risk management and governance of the IAH. I understand that the review is expected to report in April. At present, we do not believe that further work on identifying the source of the virus would add to our understanding of the measures that need to be put in place, but we will keep that assessment under review.

In relation to the recommendation on the regulatory and inspection framework, Sir Bill Callaghan was requested to lead a review examining ways of simplifying and strengthening the regulatory framework for animal pathogens. The review reported on 13 December. In the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the House in December, he accepted all the recommendations in this review and progress is being made in implementing these.

Further detail on progress being made on each of the recommendations of the investigations into the biosecurity at Pirbright is available on the DEFRA website.

Pollution Control: Fees and Charges

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8WS, on local authorities fees and charges 2008-09, what revenue was raised from fees and charges by local authorities for local air pollution prevention and control and local authority-integrated pollution and control in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of revenues for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [195186]

Jonathan Shaw: According to the returns made by local authorities, the revenue from these fees and charges were £8,901,846 in 2005-06, and £8,324,448 in 2006-07.

Future revenue will be dependent on any changes to the level of fees and charges, the number of regulated installations, and the number of permit applications made. DEFRA will continue to review the charging levels annually in consultation with key stakeholders, and those for 2008-09 have just been published on the Department's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/localauth/fees-risk/fees.htm.

We are currently working on a better regulation review of certain sectors; a possible outcome is that some sectors could be removed from regulation or subject to lighter-touch regulation with lower charges.

Rights of Way

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rights of way have been restored by local authorities under Discovering Lost Ways since the scheme's inception. [194402]

Jonathan Shaw: At present, no rights of way have been added to the definitive map as a result of the Discovering Lost Ways project.

Five claims have been submitted in Cheshire and are currently being processed. A further 21 case-files have been passed to Shropshire county council for its consideration.

TRANSPORT

A30: Bodmin

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department and its agencies propose to grant route protection status to the A30 Temple to Bodmin Improvement Scheme. [193989]

Mr. Tom Harris: Route protection status was granted in April 2005 and remains in place.

Birmingham New Street Station

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the maximum number of train services able to call at Birmingham New Street Station per day *(a)* at present and *(b)* on completion of its redevelopment. [194391]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* The redevelopment of New Street station will improve passenger handling capacity and facilities within the station itself. Growth will be achieved primarily via longer trains, as set out in the Rail White Paper published in July 2007. After the station project is completed, the station will not constrain such passenger growth over the West Midlands network.

Calculation of the maximum number of trains on the network is the responsibility of Network Rail and depends on timetable, operational and infrastructure considerations.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will set the funding allocation to local authorities for concessionary bus passes based on a calculation of the number of pensioners that are eligible for it in each local authority. [194176]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The funding will be distributed by a special grant, in line with the wishes of local government, using a formula to direct funding to areas likely to experience increased costs such as urban and tourist centres and coastal towns. The formula used is based on the most popular option with local authorities from our recent consultation on the issue. The formula takes into account the eligible population in each area, bus patronage, overnight visitors and retail space. We are confident that sufficient funding in total will be distributed to cover the additional cost of the new England-wide concession.

Bus Services: Pensioners

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an estimate of the annual cost of a free national bus pass for pensioners. [193797]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government paid a grant of £31 million in total to travel concession authorities (TCAs) in England outside London in this financial year (2007-08) to cover the cost of issuing a new concessionary travel pass to every eligible person who applied for one. The passes grant is based on £4 for each pass in circulation at October 2007, uplifted by 20 per cent. to recognise that the new England-wide concession is likely to be more attractive than the existing one. £31 million is not an annual cost as passes can remain in use for up to five years. As TCAs may choose to replace them at more frequent intervals, it is not possible to calculate the exact annual cost.

Bus Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely take-up of the national concessionary bus fare scheme by individuals in the Peterborough city council area from 1st April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [193680]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for the England-wide statutory minimum will be distributed by a special grant, in line with the wishes of local government, using a formula to direct funding to areas likely to experience increased costs such as urban and tourist centres. The formula used is based on the most popular option with local authorities from our recent consultation on the issue.

Local authorities are responsible for forecasting likely future take-up in their area based on local knowledge. In estimating the likely cost impact of the new concession, an assumption of 85 per cent. pass take-up across England was used. In October 2007, Peterborough city council had 20,500 pass holders who were entitled to free local concessionary bus travel. Approximately 30,000 older people resident in Peterborough will be eligible, from 1 April, for the new England-wide concession.

Departmental Equality

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings she has held with the recognised unions to discuss equality matters in her Department; and when she next plans to meet them. [190271]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Secretary of State for Transport takes an active interest in equality and diversity matters in her department. However, she has not met with the recognised unions to discuss these as Ministers would not normally be involved in discussions about staffing, this would be a matter for the Permanent Secretary.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by her Department have given rise to responses that have been published by her Department. [180213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information released under the FOI Act and the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) has been published in almost 37 per cent. of cases. Of the 1,362 entries in the DfT disclosure log, some indicate that information released may only be viewed physically due to the format or volume of the material.

DfT has adopted a selective disclosure log whereby only the most interesting and high profile pieces of information are published.

The DfT disclosure log can be accessed under the Freedom of Information section at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/

Driving: Sleep Apnoea

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of licensed drivers with sleep apnoea; what steps she plans to take to take account of this issue in proposals on road safety; and if she will make a statement. [194785]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No statistics are available on the precise number of licence holders with obstructive sleep apnoea. The condition must be notified to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency so fitness to drive can be assessed. In 2006, the Agency processed approximately 7,000 cases. At present there is no evidence for additional measures.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her Written Ministerial Statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, how often she will assess First Great Western's Remedial Plan once it is agreed. [191741]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport will assess progress on the First Great Western Remedial Plan every four weeks. Material non-compliance with the Remedial Agreement would be a default of the franchise agreement, which could lead to the Government terminating First Great Western's franchise.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which parliamentary constituencies contain stations through which First Great Western provide services. [191743]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following constituencies contain stations through which First Great Western currently provide services:

Aberavon
Aldershot
Arundel and South Downs
Banbury
Basingstoke
Bath
Bracknell
Brentford and Isleworth
Bridgend
Bridgwater
Brighton, Kemptown
Bristol, East
Bristol, North-West
Bristol, West
Cardiff, Central
Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr
Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire
Cheltenham
Chichester
Cities of London and Westminster
Cotswold
Crawley
Daventry
Devizes
East Devon
Dorset East
South Dorset
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush
Ealing, Southall
Exeter
Falmouth and Camborne
Fareham
Gloucester
Guildford
Havant
Hayes and Harlington
Henley
Hereford
Leominster
Llanelli
Maidenhead
Mid-Worcestershire
Mole Valley
Monmouth
Neath
Newbury
New Forest, East
Newport, East
Newport, West
Northavon
North Cornwall
North Devon
North Swindon
North Wiltshire
Oxford, West and Abingdon
Plymouth, Devonport
Plymouth, Sutton
Portsmouth, North
Portsmouth, South
Reading, East
Reading, West
Reigate
Romsey
St. Ives
Salisbury
Slough
Somerton and Frome
Southampton, Itchen
South-East Cornwall
South-West Devon
Stroud
Surrey Heath
Swansea, West
Taunton
Teignbridge
Tewkesbury
Tiverton and Honiton
Torbay
Torridge and West Devon
Totnes
Truro and St. Austell
Uxbridge
Wansdyke
Wantage
Westbury
Weston-super-Mare
West Worcestershire
Windsor
Witney
Woking
Wokingham
Woodspring
Worcester
East Worthing and Shoreham
Yeovil

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report,* columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, (1) whether First Great Western will continue to report every month to her on its 40-point Recovery Plan; [191746]

(2) whether First Great Western will report every month to her Department on its Joint Improvement Plan. [191747]

Mr. Tom Harris: First Great Western will continue to report each four-week period on the outcomes of its performance improvement activities. All franchised train operating companies provide a four-weekly report on the outcomes of their Joint Performance Improvement Plans.

Great Western Trains: Passengers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her Written Ministerial Statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, what her assessment is of passenger satisfaction on the First Great Western line. [191714]

Mr. Tom Harris: First Great Western recorded the highest level of passenger dissatisfaction as measured by the National Passenger Survey for autumn 2007.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her Written Ministerial Statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, whether she has required First Great Western to consult passengers on the targets and requirements of their Remedial Plan. [191715]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has not required First Great Western to consult passengers on the targets and requirements of the Remedial Plan. However, the Secretary of State looks to First Great Western to consult passengers when developing its proposals for detailed implementation of the Passenger Benefits Package.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to conduct an assessment of the impact on the UK economy of her plans for a third runway at Heathrow. [194008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A draft Heathrow impact assessment is set out at Annex B, 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Consultation Document'.

Heathrow Airport: Disclosure of Information

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consolidate the technical reports released in conjunction with Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport into a single document for publication. [194038]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the consultation, a CD was available which contained all the consultation documents, including the technical documents. However, we have no plans to consolidate the 14 technical reports into one publication.

Heathrow Airport: Tourism

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely economic impact of Heathrow expansion on UK tourism. [194004]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An assessment of the possible impact of additional Heathrow capacity on tourism is set out in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Consultation Document, Annex B: Impact Assessment (para 2.43 - 2.47)".

Humber Bridge

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times car journeys have been made across the Humber bridge in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [193741]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Humber bridge is the responsibility of the Humber Bridge Board, which is made up from members of the Humberside local authorities. The Humber Bridge Board publishes traffic statistics on its website:

http://www.humberbridge.co.uk/trafficstatistics.php

The latest figures taken from this website are:

Class	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total to date*
1	53,289	64,680	66,871	70,217	72,856	70,989	66,782	64,140	67,751	1,445,181
2	5,107,144	5,101,163	4,914,832	5,074,899	5,310,783	5,391,743	5,476,259	5,486,438	5,550,908	112,363,534
3	180,002	172,880	157,489	157,144	164,520	164,571	167,960	161,362	156,025	4,027,578
4	152,679	150,352	142,850	130,969	128,568	121,891	117,430	120,148	115,138	3,854,933
5	31,222	31,350	28,421	31,915	31,132	28,068	26,826	25,678	25,572	804,644
6	269,432	271,528	250,205	259,485	274,402	262,180	258,514	274,246	274,427	5,988,192
Exempt	207,994	212,839	212,097	229,445	234,410	266,089	270,399	290,818	295,320	4,186,182
Total	6,001,762	6,004,792	5,772,765	5,954,074	6,216,671	6,305,531	6,384,170	6,422,830	6,485,141	132,670,244

Notes:

Class 1: Motorcycles. Class 2: Cars and light vans up to 3.5 tonne gross weight. Motor caravans. Class 3: Light vans up to 7.5 tonne gross weight. Vehicles in class 2 above with trailer. Small buses (seating for 9-16 passengers). Class 4: HGV—2 axles. Large buses (seating for 17+). Class 5: HGV—3 axles. Class 6: HGV—4+ axles.

Itis Holdings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 735W, on Itis Holdings, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made to Itis Holdings between 1 February 2005 and 31 January 2008, broken down by source of payment. [194381]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The date, purpose and source of the payments made by the Department of Transport and its agencies to Itis Holdings Ltd. between 1 February 2005 and 31 January 2008 is as follows:

Date of payment	*Purpose/description*	*Payment made by:*
16 March 2005	January 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
30 March 2005	February 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
30 March 2005	January 2005 data for HA	DfT(C)
16 May 2005	March 2005 data for DfT(C), February and March data for HA	DfT(C)
11 July 2005	May 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
11 July 2005	April and May data for HA	DfT(C)
11 July 2005	April 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
1 September 2005	June 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
1 September 2005	June 2005 data for HA	DfT(C)
21 September 2005	July 2005 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
7 November 2005	August 2005 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
16 December 2005	September 2005 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
16 December 2005	October 2005 data for HA	DfT(C)
16 December 2005	October 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
22 February 2006	December 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
22 February 2006	December 2005 data for HA	DfT(C)
22 February 2006	November 2005 data for HA	DfT(C)
22 February 2006	November 2005 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
21 March 2006	January 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
11 April 2006	February 2006 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
11 April 2006	February 2006 data for HA	DfT(C)
12 June 2006	March 2006 data for DfT(C)	DfT(C)
12 June 2006	March 2006 data for HA	DfT(C)
19 June 2006	April 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
17 July 2006	May 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
14 August 2006	June 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
12 September 2006	July 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
25 October 2006	August 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
8 November 2006	September 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
5 January 2007	October 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
17 January 2007	November 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
16 January 2007	Origin Destination Study for HA	HA
21 February 2007	December 2006 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
21 March 2007	January 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
4 May 2007	February 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
25 May 2007	March 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
4 July 2007	April 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
30 July 2007	May 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
22 August 2007	June 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
26 September 2007	July 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
19 November 2007	August 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
10 December 2007	October 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)
22 January 2008	November 2007 data for DfT(C) and HA	DfT(C)

Notes:

1. Data (as in January 2005 data for DfT(C)) refers to Global Positioning System (GPS) location data, used for congestion monitoring;
2. HA is the Highways Agency and DfT(C) is the central Department for Transport.

M6: Heysham

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Heysham/M6 Link (Northern Route) has gained programme entry status for funding. [194028]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proposed Heysham to M6 Link Road has yet to receive programme entry. In order to take a decision on programme entry, the Department requires confirmation that the North West region continues to support the scheme at the latest estimated cost of £140 million. In addition, Lancashire county council are currently revising their Major Scheme Business Case which will enable the Department to conclude its value for money assessment and appraisal of the scheme.

Motorways: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how she plans to enforce the proposed pay as you go use of certain carriageways on motorways by *(a)* UK drivers and *(b)* those driving foreign registered vehicles; and if she will make a statement; [194464]

(2) whether she plans to charge the owners or drivers of vehicles displaying diplomatic plates for the use of the pay as you go carriageways on motorways. [194465]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In her written statement to Parliament of 4 March 2008, the Secretary of State said that Government would be exploring a range of options to manage traffic on motorways where extra capacity is being provided. One of these options is to charge a toll for using one of the lanes. The details of how this could work in practice are currently being developed.

Passenger Ships

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cruise ships operated from UK ports in each year since 1997; and under which countries' flags in each year. [192397]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is shown in the following table, for 1999 to 2006. This information was not collected in 1997 and 1998.

Number of cruise ships using UK ports 1999-2006, by country of registration

Flag	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Bahamas	16	11	16	19	19	19	19	17
Barbados	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Number of cruise ships using UK ports 1999-2006, by country of registration

Flag	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Bermuda	—	1	1	—	2	1	7	6
Cyprus	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greece	3	3	3	1	1	—	—	—
Italy	—	1	—	3	3	1	3	3
Japan	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Liberia	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Malta	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	—
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1
Netherlands	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	2
Netherlands Antilles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Norway	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	1
Panama	2	2	5	4	1	1	—	1
Portugal	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2
Russia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
Switzerland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom	9	8	7	8	15	11	8	7
Wallis and Futuna Islands	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	39	34	39	40	51	44	51	43

Note:

Table shows the number of vessels using UK ports to embark or disembark cruise passengers in each year. Each vessel may make multiple port visits.

Source:

DfT Cruise Passenger Returns

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her latest estimate is of the cost to her Department of implementing the concessionary fares scheme nationally. [192255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the introduction of the free off-peak local bus travel concession within local authority areas in April 2006, central Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and £367.5 million in 2007-08 (increasing annually) for statutory concessionary fares through the revenue support grant.

The Department is now paying an additional special grant of £212 million to travel concessionary authorities in 2008-09 (and rising thereafter) just to cover the cost of extending the statutory minimum bus concession to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England. This additional amount is based on our assessment of the likely cost impact of the new concession, which is based on generous assumptions about pass take-up, fares and increased patronage. It is enough to fund around an extra 200 million bus journeys across England.

The money will be distributed by a special grant, in line with the wishes of local government itself, using a formula to direct to funding to areas likely to experience increased costs such as urban and tourist centres and coastal towns. The formula used is based on the most popular option with local authorities from our recent consultation on the issue. We are confident that sufficient total funding will be distributed to cover the additional cost of the new concession.

Public Transport: Research

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has undertaken on the reasons people choose not to use public transport *(a)* to travel to work, *(b)* to travel to school and *(c)* to take their children to school. [191758]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has an ongoing programme of research to help improve its understanding of public attitudes and travel choices. This research continues to develop our understanding of the barriers and motivations to specific modal choices among different user groups and for different journey purposes including travel to work and school.

The findings from the Department's research are used to inform the development of Government policy and communications in addition to best practice guidance for use by both public and private sector stakeholders.

Examples of completed research studies are:

Understanding the travel aspirations, needs and behaviour of young adults

This study has explored in depth the attitudes of young people towards mode selection for a range of journey purposes including travel to work and travel for childcare. The final report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/youngaspirations

Understanding the travel needs, behaviour and aspirations of people in later life

This study has explored in depth the attitudes associated with the mode selection of older people for a range of journey purposes. The final report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/olderaspirations

Omnibus surveys of public attitudes

The Department has commissioned regular surveys of public attitudes to public transport modes. The latest reports on public attitudes to rail and bus travel are available:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trsnstatsatt/attitudestorailtravel11

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trsnstatsatt/attitudestobustravel

The Families and Children Study (FACS)

The Department contributes funds to this Department for Work and Pensions panel survey of 7,500 families including 13,500 dependent children. The survey provides information on the travel to school and work behaviours and choices of this group. Further information is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/facs/

Railways: Franchises

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she intends to publish the results of her Department's consultation on Enforcement policy: rail franchise agreements and closure conditions. [191707]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Enforcement Policy: Rail Franchise Agreements and Closure Conditions is being updated following responses to the consultation and in light of the recent enforcement activity concerning First Great Western. The results and the updated policy will be published in due course.

Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department has carried out on traffic calming measures since 2005. [191705]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport (DfT) provides advice, technical guidance and regulations for the installation of traffic calming. Implementation of traffic calming on local roads is a matter for local authorities.

The Highways Agency is responsible for implementing traffic calming on its road network. Since 2005, the Highways Agency has implemented 61 road schemes incorporating traffic calming elements. A list of all the schemes has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Since 2005, the DfT has made the following regulations relating to traffic calming which are available on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) at:

www.opsi.gov.uk

"The Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006" (SI 2006, No. 2082)

"Traffic Signs (Amendment) Regulations 2006" (SI 2006, No. 2083)

Since 2005 we have published a number of guidance documents relating to traffic calming which are available on the DfT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

Since 2005, the DfT has funded the Mixed Priority Road Safety Demonstration Project, the Inner City Road Safety Demonstration Project, the Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative, and the Road Safety Partnership Grant Scheme, in which safety schemes have included some traffic calming measures.

The DfT also contributed to "Traffic Calming Techniques" Institution of Highways and Transportation and County Surveyor's Society, 2005, available from:

www.iht.org

English Heritage and DfT worked together to produce "Streets for All" 2005, available from:

www.english-heritage.org.uk

a series of eight regional documents including a chapter about traffic management. The DfT also worked with English Heritage to produce a series of leaflets (including one about traffic calming) on improving streetscape in historic areas. English Heritage plan to publish the leaflets in spring 2008.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department and its agencies have made of the effectiveness of street lighting in reducing the *(a)* risk and *(b)* seriousness of road accidents. [194380]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The provision of street lighting on local roads in England is the responsibility of individual local highway authorities. The Department is currently undertaking research into the relationship between road accidents and the provision of street lighting on the local authority road network. We expect the research to be published in the summer.

The safety benefits of road lighting on the strategic road network (motorways and major A roads in England) operated by the Highways Agency in England were most recently assessed in 2006. That analysis of 11 years of accident data found that road lighting reduced night time personal injury accidents on motorway and major A road links, between junctions, by about 10 per cent.

In August 2007 the Agency published revised standards for new and replacement lighting, so that future provision as a safety measure was cost effective and sensitive to the environment, while maintaining road safety.

The Agency is presently assessing whether road lighting, while providing road user comfort, might encourage higher speeds.

Roads: Safety

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are being taken to promote road safety on rural and remote roads. [195220]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department publishes guidance and awards grants to assist local authorities in addressing road safety issues.

It has recently launched an £8 million demonstration project looking at rural road safety issues. Working with Devon, Lincolnshire, Northampton and Norfolk county councils, the project will demonstrate good practice for local authorities in developing and implementing area-wide data-led strategies, involving a range of education, enforcement and engineering measures, for achieving road casualty reductions in rural areas.

The Department has also recently provided grant funding through its Partnership Grant Scheme for a number of rural projects including £205,000 to Derbyshire county council to assist with the Derbyshire Motorcycle Audit Demonstration Project, which comprises an infrastructure audit of two sections of road with high motorcyclist casualty rates. The audit findings will be incorporated into engineering, maintenance and education, training and publicity programmes, and shared with other interested parties.

More widely the Department also continues to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding on rural roads through its Think! publicity campaigns.

Roads: Tolls

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Financial Statement of 12 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 294, what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the funding of road pricing technology; and if she will make a statement. [195280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Budget 2008 announced that sufficient funding would be made available for the Demonstrations Project seeking answers to crucial questions on the practicability of charging for road use by time, distance and place. This reflects decisions made by the Secretary of State on the detailed allocation of the Department's budget for 2008-09 to 2010-11 set in the Comprehensive Spending Review published by the Treasury last year.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191522]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not directly recruit staff; all staff are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, as necessary. The Office does not hold personnel records that would allow age to be determined.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192994]

David Cairns: None.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194988]

David Cairns: None.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CMPi

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to CMPi in the last 12 months. [194813]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table sets out the payments made by the Department and its agencies to CMPi in the last 12 months.

	£ *Payments made 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008*
Communities and Local Government (central)	57,625
Agencies	21,697

Community Centres: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1410W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on community centres: valuation, how many properties under the category of hall and premises were on the rating lists in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government Office region in the most recent period for which figures are available. [194831]

John Healey: As at 30 January 2008, there were 16,267 properties described as hall and premises in the 2005 Rating Lists for England.

Government region	*Number of hall and premises*
East Midlands	1,698
East of England	2,546
London	938
North East	577
North West	1,359
South East	3,558
South West	2,972
West Midlands	1,450
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,169
Total	16,267

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many instances and for which authorities responsibility for historic housing debt has been removed from local authorities following large-scale voluntary housing transfers to registered social landlords; for how many authorities currently engaged in large-scale voluntary transfers such responsibilities will be removed; and what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of removing responsibility for historic housing debt from all local authorities. [192030]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has made 76 payments to the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) for those authorities whose net capital receipt from the sale of their housing and associated assets was less that the attributable housing debt. Details of authorities we have made payments for are included in the following list.

We expect to make a further 17 payments to the PWLB for schemes that are on the Housing Transfer Programme but where the transfer of housing has yet to be completed. Details of authorities we expect to make payments for are as follows.

No distinction is made between current and historic housing debt. The cost of removing responsibility for assumed local authority housing debt is £17.3 billion.

Local authorities where overhanging debt has been paid on completion of housing transfers

Blackburn with Darwen BC
Burnley BC
Calderdale MBC
Carlisle CC
Castle Morpeth BC

Chester Le Street DC
Chorley
City of Bradford
Copeland BC
Coventry CC
Derwentside DC
Halton
Hartlepool
Hyndburn BC
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC
Knowsley MBC
LB Islington (three partial transfers)
LB Lambeth (two partial transfers)
LB Lewisham
LB Tower Hamlets (19 partial transfers)
Manchester (five partial transfers)
Middlesbrough
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
North Norfolk
North Somerset
Pendle BC
Preston CC
Purbeck
Redcar and Cleveland BC
Rochford DC
Rossendale BC
Sefton BC
Sheffield CC (seven partial transfers)
St. Helens MBC
Stafford BC
Teesdale DC
Torridge DC
Trafford
Wakefield
Walsall MBC
Wansbeck DC
Wellingborough BC
Wirral
Worcester

Local Authorities with housing transfer schemes that are likely to involve payment of overhanging debt

Liverpool CC
LB Lambeth
Ribble Valley
LB Lewisham (two partial schemes)
LB Tower Hamlets (seven partial schemes)
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Salford
Manchester CC (two partial schemes)
LB Havering

Council Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax was written off by local authorities in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority. [194348]

John Healey: A table has been deposited in the Library of the House giving details, by both region and local authority, of the amount of council tax written off by each billing authority in England in 2006-07. The data are reported annually by all billing authorities.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many liability orders for non-payment of council tax bills were handed over to bailiffs by local authorities for collection of council tax in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and how much was successfully recovered by bailiffs, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority in each year. [194350]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government does not hold this information.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency's most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of domestic dwellings in England which are in incorrect council tax bands. [194317]

John Healey: Neither this Department nor the Valuation Office Agency estimate the proportion of domestic dwellings in England which are in incorrect council tax bands. Valuation Officers have a duty to maintain the valuation lists for council tax, and will always take action to correct assessments they consider to be incorrect.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's strategy towards future revaluations referred to in the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation programme board minutes. [193916]

John Healey: No such document exists.

Cumbria County Council: Equal Pay

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been *(a)* provided and *(b)* spent providing assistance to Cumbria County Council to enable it to meet outstanding equal pay claims; and when this assistance was provided. [194602]

John Healey *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* In 2007-08, Communities and Local Government allocated £500 million of capitalisation directions to 46 local authorities, including Cumbria county council, to aid them in managing their equal pay back pay costs. The details of capitalisation used by each authority in 2007-08 will be published on the Department's website by September 2008. Details of amounts sought or directions issued have not been published in order to avoid prejudicing ongoing negotiations.

No estimates are available of the cost of specific legal actions undertaken by individual authorities.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of Cumbria county council's legal actions contesting the national equal pay claim; [194584]

(2) how much Cumbria county council has spent on legal costs in contesting equal pay claims. [194585]

John Healey *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* In 2007-08, Communities and Local Government allocated £500 million of capitalisation directions to 46 local authorities, including Cumbria county council, to aid them in managing their equal pay back pay costs. The details of capitalisation used by each authority in 2007-08 will be published on the Department's website by September 2008. Details of amounts sought or directions issued have not been published in order to avoid prejudicing ongoing negotiations.

No estimates are available of the cost of specific legal actions undertaken by individual authorities.

Departmental Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data for which her Department and its agencies are responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas. [191637]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department (including its agencies) does not store or process any data overseas.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's civil servants were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188790]

Mr. Dhanda: No civil servant in the Department for Communities and Local Government has been suspended or dismissed for accessing obscene or any other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 12-16WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what the cost has been of the National Register of Social Housing to date. [194363]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 151-52W.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191781]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government are committed to safety online for all users, including children. The Central Office for Information is preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government web estate and we will look to implement this guidance when it becomes available, taking account of the needs of all users.

Departmental Manpower

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed by her Department, including on the Government Office network. [195129]

Mr. Dhanda: On 30 September 2007 the Department employed the equivalent of 2,990 full-time staff. This is the latest published figure from the Office for National Statistics. It includes Communities and Local Government staff working in the Government office network and excludes staff in the Department's Executive agencies.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192440]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Retirement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff retired on the grounds of stress-related illness in each of the last three years. [187884]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not record any underlying reason for normal age retirement or voluntary early retirement. No one has been medically retired on the grounds of a stress-related illness in the past three years.

The Department provides confidential access to counsellors for any staff with a stress-related illness. The Department has introduced a stress risk assessment tool to deal with any stress-related illness as soon as identified.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department's euro changeover plan was last updated. [194587]

Mr. Dhanda: The Communities and Local Government's euro changeover plan was last updated in June 2007.

Eco-towns: Leicester

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many objections her Department has received by *(a)* email, *(b)* post and *(c)* other means to the proposed Pennbury eco-town project near Leicester. [193584]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* We are aware that some promoters or other commentators have publicised particular proposals for eco-towns. In some instances this has resulted in letters and other representations being received by the Department in relation to these statements.

We expect to publish the shortlist of schemes identified by the preliminary sift in the near future for extensive consultation with the public, wider stakeholders and local authorities.

Empty Property: Rates and Rating

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the amount of unoccupied property rate liability due to be paid by private finance initiative (PFI) contractors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what allowances have been made for these liabilities in the relevant PFI contracts. [193762]

Mr. Dhanda: All of Communities and Local Government's PFI projects are procured and managed by local authorities. Communities and Local Government supports these projects by providing PFI credits through which a support grant is provided to help authorities meet the capital elements of PFI payments. Communities and Local Government does not have any direct responsibility for the management of local authority PFI contracts; the responsibility for this rests with the relevant local authorities.

The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

For a list of local authority PFI projects sponsored by CLG please refer to the HM Treasury signed deals list which can be found on the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/EAF/OA/
pfi_signed_projects_list_april 2007.xls

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the sums to be paid by her Department in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193772]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government expect to receive approximately £335,000 in empty rates relief in respect of 2007-08 relating to properties temporarily partly unoccupied.

No applications for rate relief have yet been identified for 2008-09.

Energy Performance Certificates: Construction

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for amendments to the RdSAP software used to prepare energy performance certificates to take account of traditional building materials. [193043]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Possible amendments to RdSAP are currently being considered by a SAP/RdSAP working group convened by CLG. This will include whether software changes related to traditional buildings are needed.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards an inter-departmental review on the energy performance of existing building stock. [194016]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department continues to work very closely with other Departments on measures to improve energy efficiency in existing homes and, for example, submitted a joint memorandum with the Departments for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and Innovation, Universities and Skills for the Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry into existing homes and climate change. The Department is currently working on an analysis of the energy performance of existing non domestic buildings which will be discussed with other Departments in the normal manner.

Greater London

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2778W, on Greater London, what receipts have been received from other building occupants in her Department's central London offices in 2007-08; and what they are expected to be in each of the next four years. [195113]

Mr. Dhanda: The receipts received by Communities and Local Government from other building occupants, in its central London offices in 2007-08, is forecast to be approximately £8.7 million. At present the planned receipts for 2008-09 are £10.2 million.

Housing: Armed Forces

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether homes *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented by the Ministry of Defence are covered by the provisions of public requests to order disposal. [194828]

Mr. Dhanda: Part 10 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 makes provision for the disposal of public land, including the specific public request to order disposal (PROD) power. Schedule 16 of the Act lists the specific bodies to whom Part 10 of the Act applies.

As the Ministry of Defence is a Government Department and Government Departments are not listed in Schedule 16 of the Act, public requests to order disposal cannot be applied to any land owned by the Department.

For a PROD to apply, the body concerned or a subsidiary of it must own a freehold or leasehold interest in the property, so any property that is rented would be excluded.

Housing: Low Incomes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* council owned and *(b)* social dwellings were sold in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the south-west and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [189730]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sales of social housing are from local authorities and registered social landlords. We do not have information on other public sector housing sales. The following table shows numbers of sales to tenants by local authorities and registered social landlords through right to buy and other sales. Transfers from local authorities to registered social landlords are excluded. Figures are shown for England and the south west region from 1998-99 to 2006-07. For Cornwall, the table includes local authority sales only, as figures for registered social landlords are not available at this level.

Local authority (LA) and registered social landlord (RSL) sales to tenants: right to buy (RTB) and other sales

	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England									
LA RTB sales	40,272	54,251	52,380	51,968	63,394	69,577	49,983	26,654	16,896
RSL RTB sales	4,414	7,245	7,098	8,224	10,473	14,525	8,665	6,356	4,835
Total RTB sales	44,686	61,496	59,478	60,192	73,867	84,102	58,648	33,010	21,731
Other LA sales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	496
Other RSL sales	—	—	—	312	396	612	700	631	936
South West region									
LA RTB sales	3,276	3,708	3,157	2,739	3,035	2,521	1,443	818	627
RSL RTB sales[1]	700	2,010	1,770	1,400	1,230	600	340	200	140
Total RTB sales	3,976	5,718	4,927	4,139	4,265	3,121	1,783	1,018	767
Other LA sales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Other RSL sales[1]	—	—	—	50	50	40	30	20	30
Cornwall									
LA RTB sales	205	308	232	219	245	187	80	27	22

[1] Estimate therefore rounded.

Sources:

P1B returns from local authorities to Communities and Local Government, and Regulatory Statistical Return and other information from registered social landlords to the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether funding from the Housing Corporation's budget for affordable housing which is unspent may be carried forward to the next financial year. [193725]

Mr. Iain Wright: Final decisions on carry forward of unspent budgets are made each year, generally in the autumn, and are subject to Treasury agreement. However, the provision of new affordable housing is a priority for this Government and this will be a significant factor in any decision on carry forward.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* amount of the Housing Corporation's budget for affordable housing which will be spent by the end of 2007-08. [193726]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation is currently forecasting to spend its full budget of £2 billion this financial year.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to increase access to affordable housing for first-time buyers in *(a)* West Lancashire constituency and *(b)* nationally. [193949]

Mr. Iain Wright: In July 2007 my right hon. friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) announced an £8 billion investment programme for affordable housing in 2008-11, a £3 billion increase compared to the previous three years. As part of this programme we are committed to delivering at least 70,000 more affordable homes a year by 2010. This includes 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes a year funded mainly by the Housing Corporation.

We are committed to helping more people into partial ownership on a shared equity basis. The Chancellor announced, in the Budget, that from April this year two new equity loans will be available through the Government's shared equity scheme Open Market HomeBuy (OMHB). The loans provide first time buyers with more flexibility in the percentage of the value of their home that can be borrowed—to a maximum of 50 per cent.—and more choice in the mortgage they can take out.

In the period 2006-08, we have invested approximately £1.3 million through the Housing Corporation on affordable housing in my hon. Friend's constituency. Over the next three years we will be investing a further £526 million on affordable housing in the North West.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the indicative targets for the number of homes to be demolished in each housing market renewal pathfinder area are for each of the next three years. [193783]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding allocations for the Housing Market Renewal programme for 2008-11 were announced on 28 February and the HMR pathfinders are in the process of revising their business plans accordingly. As before, the programme will deliver a mix of new build, refurbishment and demolition. Latest estimates for 2008-11 are set out in the following table:

	Refurbishment	*New build*	*Demolition*
Birmingham Sandwell	1,550	2,002	484
East Lancashire	1,710	0	1,095
Hull	1,568	584	867
Manchester Salford	3,242	3,788	1,083
Merseyside	9,036	2,504	1,888
Newcastle Gateshead	2,360	860	760
North Staffordshire	3,965	1,942	1,209
Oldham Rochdale	476	1,376	508
South Yorkshire	97	4,552	1,429
Total	23,528	16,232	8,815

As these estimates demonstrate, rates of demolition will remain far lower than those for refurbishment and new build.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost of compliance with the lifetime homes standard for an individual property. [194019]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods—A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society', launched on 25 February 2008, we estimated that "compliance with the lifetime homes standards could result in modest additional costs of around £547 per new home."

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 39W, on housing: standards, if she will publish the table with figures for local authority dwellings and housing association dwellings listed separately. [194366]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the following table. The figures represent the estimated expenditure maintaining the housing stock condition including the Decent Homes standard over the last nine years.

£ billion

	Total investment	*LA*	*RSL*
1997-98	1.89	1.47	0.41
1998-99	2.08	1.56	0.52
1999-2000	1.77	1.48	0.29
2000-01	2.09	1.71	0.38
2001-02	2.56	2.01	0.54
2002-03	2.94	2.21	0.73
2003-04	3.16	2.50	0.67
2004-05	3.51	3.00	0.51
2005-06	3.65	2.96	0.69
Total	23.65	18.90	4.75

Note:
Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's target for 240,000 dwellings to be built annually includes a target for each region. [194412]

Mr. Iain Wright: Detailed housing targets are not directly set by government, but are set out in regional and local plans which are developed through regional and local planning processes.

The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191), published in July 2007, set out a target to increase housing supply to 240,000 additional homes per annum by 2016.

The Green Paper included a commitment to early reviews of housing provision in Regional Spatial Strategies, where appropriate, completed by 2011, to reflect these plans for homes.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 117W, on Ipsos MORI, what payments her Department's agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193900]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's agencies have no record of any payments made to Ipsos Mori in the last 24 months.

Leisure: Facilities

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department issues to local authorities which opt to use a leisure trust model for the management of local leisure facilities; [193005]

(2) what the basis is for her Department's statement that local leisure trust-managed facilities' exemption from VAT payment benefits the local community; [193006]

(3) what safeguards her Department requires local authorities to put in place in circumstances where a local leisure management system is unable to continue to operate; [193007]

(4) whether it is mandatory for local authorities to conduct a tendering process for the management of local leisure facilities; [193008]

(5) which leisure trust-managed local leisure facilities have ceased to operate in England since 1997. [193009]

Mr. Dhanda: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. Communities and Local Government have not issued guidance to local authorities which opt to use a leisure trust model for the management of local leisure facilities. However, every local authority is under a statutory duty to establish an adequate and effective system of financial management and arrangements for the management of risk. The authority's chief finance officer also has duties to report to the council on proposed decisions or actions that would be unlawful or likely to cause a loss.

Queries about the VAT affairs of arrangements made by a leisure trust should be referred to HM Revenue and Customs. Where a chosen local leisure management system is unable to operate it would be for the local authority to make decisions about future arrangements.

The duty of best value, as laid down in legislation, requires authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which they exercise their functions, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It is for them to decide, in the first place, whether the duty of best value can only be met by conducting a tendering exercise. Following the recent consultation exercise, current best value guidance set out in ODPM Circular 03/2003 will be replaced by the new 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities' guidance. The draft consultation guidance made clear that local authorities should adopt practices that are fair and open, that is, neutral between different types of providers and should ensure that any procurement decision, including retaining services in-house, is undertaken and justified in an open and transparent way. Any specific complaints that best value is not being met in a particular set of circumstances would need to be addressed in the first instance to the authority's external auditor.

Information on which leisure trust-managed local leisure facilities have ceased to operate in England since 1997 is not held centrally.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to require all new local authority leisure centre contracts to be subject to external tender. [193215]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 11 March 2008]*: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. Communities and Local Government have not issued guidance to local authorities which opt to use a leisure trust model for the management of local leisure facilities. However, every local authority is under a statutory duty to establish an adequate and effective system of financial management and arrangements for the management of risk. The authority's chief finance officer also has duties to report to the council on proposed decisions or actions that would be unlawful or likely to cause a loss.

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Information on which leisure trust-managed local leisure facilities have ceased to operate in England since 1997 is not held centrally.

Local Authorities: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's policy is on local authorities which set building targets in their local development frameworks which differ from those in a regional spatial strategy; [194261]

(2) in what respects the new regional spatial strategies are binding on local planning authorities. [194263]

Mr. Dhanda: The regional spatial strategy provides a spatial framework that informs Development Plan Documents, which must be in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy.

Development Plan Documents are tested for general conformity with the regional spatial strategy as part the examination of their soundness. If a Local Development Document is found to be unsound it cannot be adopted.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department will allocate to local authorities under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [194818]

John Healey: To allow us to take a detailed look at the lessons learnt from the original scheme, and to consult widely and introduce the best possible outcomes from a reformed scheme, the Government plan to introduce a reformed Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) scheme from 2009-10, with resources of £50 million doubling to £100 million in its second year, as the scheme becomes incorporated into the mainstream system of funding.

Just under £400 million remains to be allocated under the original three-year LABGI scheme. An announcement about the allocation of this funding will be made shortly.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datasets are used in the calculation of the allocation of formula grant to local authorities. [194290]

John Healey: Annex D of the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2008-09 (HC 262) contains the description of each of the indicators used in the calculation of the allocation of formula grant.

More detailed definitions are available as supporting material on the Local Government Finance website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/grant.htm#set

Local Government Finance: Newcastle-Under-Lyme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will initiate an investigation into the misallocation of local authority business growth incentive funds to Newcastle-under-Lyme and report the results to Parliament. [194260]

John Healey: The circumstances which led to the overpayment of Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme funding to Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council have already been reviewed. The error was identified by officials in the course of checking the underlying calculations. It came about as a result of mis-transposition of data relating to Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council and Newcastle city council. We are taking steps to minimise the risk of similar errors being made in the future.

Local Government Finance: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing and planning delivery grant will be allocated towards a local authority planning department's costs. [194294]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published draft allocation criteria for the housing and planning delivery grant (HPDG) for consultation in October 2007, which closed on 17 January. We will set out final allocation criteria in due course taking account of the views expressed in the consultation. HPDG amounts to £510 million over three years. As set out in the consultation, HPDG allocations will be unringfenced, so local authorities in receipt of the grant will themselves be able to decide how best to use their allocations, according to local priorities.

Local Government: Public Participation

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department is taking to encourage local authorities to allow the public to *(a)* present petitions and *(b)* speak at sessions of full council meetings; [194870]

(2) whether she has had recent discussions on steps to encourage public participation in full local authority council meetings. [194871]

Mr. Dhanda: On 27 December 2007 Communities and Local Government published the 'Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation', which seeks views on a proposed duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions. The consultation will close on 20 March.

Encouraging public participation in local authority full council meetings is not current Government policy, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not had any recent discussions on this matter.

Maps: EC Law

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what new responsibilities implementation of EU Directive 2007/2/EC (INSPIRE) will place upon *(a)* her Department, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* Ordnance Survey. [194023]

Mr. Iain Wright: Responsibilities will depend on the specific, yet to be agreed, requirements of the INSPIRE directive and their transposition into UK legislation. However, we do not anticipate any new responsibilities for *(a)* the Department, *(b)* local authorities or *(c)* Ordnance Survey.

New Local Government Network

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answers to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W, on New Local Government Network, if she will *(a)* list the value and purpose of each of the 10 payments and *(b)* the research which the department commissioned. [194365]

John Healey: The information is as follows.

	Purpose	£
7 August 2002	Conference attendance fees	514.90
2 May 2003	Conference attendance fees	587.50
8 August 2003	One of four payments for research project into making choices in the use of public services	5,875.00
9 January 2004	One of four payments for research project into making choices in the use of public services	5,875.00

	Purpose	£
20 January 2004	Conference attendance fees	47.00
13 February 2004	One of four payments for research project into making choices in the use of public services	5,875.00
8 March 2004	One of four payments for research project into making choices in the use of public services	5,875.00
25 April 2006	Local Government White Paper consultation event on Neighbourhoods and Democracy	8,267.00
20 March 2007	Purchase of published Regions Report	216.00
1 November 2007	Purchase of published report into Councils Embracing Localism	20.00

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the revenue foregone from national non-domestic rates in the last three financial years from *(a)* small business rate, *(b)* empty property, *(c)* charity and non-profit-making, *(d)* rural business and *(e)* severe hardship rate relief. [193245]

John Healey: Details of the level of relief granted from national non-domestic rates in England in the last three financial years for 2004-05 to 2006-07 were published in the statistical release of 26 September 2007 and are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/cp067.htm

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what geographical, spatial or geo-demographic indicators or datasets the agency is using to assist its analysis of the role of location in the proposed automated valuation model. [193911]

John Healey: On the assumption that the "agency" referred to in the hon. Member's question is the Valuation Office Agency I can confirm that the geographical, spatial and geo-demographic indicators or datasets in use to assist its analysis of the role of location are:

1. Property address including postcode
2. Sublocation.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she had with other Government Departments on Ordnance Survey's new Public Task before approving it. [193686]

Mr. Iain Wright: Shareholder Executive conducted discussions with senior officials in Ordnance Survey and Communities and Local Government before submitting the Public Task document to Ministers. Ministers approved the Public Task document in July 2007.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on whether use of a property as a second home should require planning permission. [194295]

Mr. Iain Wright: The planning system is concerned with the use of land, and decisions on planning applications can be made only on the basis of land-use planning considerations. Whether a person purchasing a property already has a main residence elsewhere is not a land-use planning consideration. To take into account factors and information that had no relevance to a decision on a planning matter would be ultra vires.

Planning Permission: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Mayor of London has in relation to the negotiation of section 106 agreements for planning applications in London; and if she will make a statement. [194590]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Mayor has no powers in relation to the negotiation of section 106 agreements for planning applications determined by London boroughs acting as local planning authorities. In future, under powers in the Greater London Authority Act 2007 which come into force on 6 April 2008, the Mayor will have power to determine certain strategically important planning applications in place of the local planning authority and, as a consequence, the Act grants the Mayor power to agree any section 106 agreements related to those applications.

Referendums

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will encourage the use of referendums to promote community engagement in the forthcoming White Paper. [194835]

Mr. Dhanda: The forthcoming Empowerment White Paper will explore a range of ways to unlock talent in local communities and give people a real say on improving local services and promoting active citizenship. More specific details will be set out in the final version, scheduled for publication in the summer.

Regional Government: Brussels

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on regional government: Brussels, what guidance has been given to the European regional offices on whether they are public authorities for the purposes of *(a)* the Environmental Information Regulations and *(b)* the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [195003]

Mr. Dhanda: The offices in Brussels are facilities used by the regional assemblies and their partners. They are not separate organisations for the purposes of either the Environmental Information Regulations or the Freedom of Information Act, so no guidance is necessary.

Regional Planning and Development: East Midlands

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1168-69W, and of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 51W, on Regional Planning and Development: East Midlands, if she will place in the Library a copy of each formal submission on each regional spatial strategy made by Labour hon. Members. [194364]

Mr. Dhanda: Formal submissions made by individuals and bodies on the draft RSSs are in the public domain and can be viewed via accessing the websites for each of the English regions in the following list.

North East

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/ourregion/regional_strategies/

North West

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

Yorkshire and Humber

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report/

East Midlands

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/psc/suscom/rss/eastmidlandsplan/

West Midlands

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47

East of England

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

South East

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html

South West

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

Regional Resilience Forums: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of each regional resilience forum is for the financial year 2007-08. [194814]

Mr. Dhanda: Regional resilience forums do not have a dedicated budget. The forum is a process by which the organisations with an interest in regional civil protection issues co-operate with each other. It is not a statutory body as such, nor does it have powers to direct its members.

Squatting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* police and *(b)* local authorities on managing squatters in the last three years. [193939]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to the police and/or local authorities on the specific issue of managing squatters, in this period.

Temporary Accommodation: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families in Eastbourne constituency were *(a)* on temporary housing waiting lists and *(b)* placed in temporary housing in each year since 1997. [192087]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing waiting lists (housing registers) are for permanent, social housing. The numbers recorded on the housing register in Eastbourne were as follows:

As at 1 April each year[1]	*Households*	*Requiring 3 or 3+ bedrooms*[2]
2001	2,596	495
2002	2,041	406
2003	2,806	493
2004	3,000	1,083
2005	3,354	543
2006	4,481	688
2007	5,225	1,269

[1] Data prior to 2001 not readily available.
[2] Households registering state number of bedrooms required, from 1-2, 3, or 3+.
Source:
CLG HSSA and HIP annual returns from local authorities.

Local authorities place some homeless households in temporary accommodation while permanent housing solutions can be found. The number of people being accepted as owed the main homelessness duty has fallen significantly in recent years, with fewer households going into temporary accommodation.

In Eastbourne, the number of households in temporary accommodation were as follows:

As at 1 April each year[1]	*Households*	*Families with children*[2]	*Percentage of families*[2]
1999	307	—	—
2000	327	—	—
2001	392	—	—
2002	365	—	—
2003	274	—	—
2004	246	205	83
2005	137	54	39
2006	145	67	46
2007	136	76	56

[1] Data prior to 1999 not readily available.
[2] Data prior to 2004 not readily available.
Source:
CLG P1E quarterly returns from local authorities.

All local authorities have been set a target of reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation by 50 per cent. by 2010. This is from a baseline of numbers at end December 2004. Eastbourne was set a target of 143 households, and that target has been achieved in four separate quarters over the last three years, though not sustained. At the last reported quarter (end of September 2007) Eastbourne was just above the target at 145 households.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for the publication of the counter-terrorism supplement on planning is; and what plans there are for a consultation to be held on the document. [195000]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government intend to publish during the summer of 2008 the counter-terrorism supplement which will accompany planning policy guidance "Safer Places". In drafting this supplement the Home Office will be consulting with key stakeholders both within Government, with industry and with professional bodies involved in planning and design.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the sum of financial contributions made under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by developers which remains unspent. [193995]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have not made an estimate of contributions yet to be spent by local planning authorities. Authorities entering into planning obligations are responsible for their implementation and enforcement to ensure that developer contributions are spent on their intended purpose.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which wind farm proposals her Department has lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191113]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such objections have been lodged.

Working Neighbourhood Fund: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date her Department informed local authorities of the most recent Working Neighbourhood Fund Grant allocations. [194020]

John Healey: I confirmed allocations of Working Neighbourhood Fund allocations on 5 February 2008.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Actinide and Alpha Emitting Research Facilities

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work has been undertaken at Harwell to upgrade the actinide and alpha emitting research facilities since 1990. [193611]

Malcolm Wicks: There are no facilities at UKAEA Harwell that currently perform research on alpha emitting or actinide radioactive materials. The B220 Radiochemistry Laboratory housed research of this type in the past; however, that facility is undergoing decommissioning.

During the 1990s B220 was upgraded to modern standards in anticipation of receiving a licence from NII. Those upgrades included modifications to the ventilation system, electrical system, fire protection system, and radiological alarm system. In the mid-1990s a suite of shielded cells was commissioned for work on highly radioactive materials. Laboratory modifications were also made to support metallurgical analyses. These facilities are now abandoned and undergoing decommissioning.

The decommissioning process began in 1993 and has resulted in the removal of redundant glove box facilities, laboratory areas, and pressurised suit facilities. Packaging of radium contaminated wastes is proceeding in an area of the facility which contains shielded cells as a part of the Harwell site decommissioning activities.

British Coal: Assets

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who owns the former British Coal's assets, with particular reference to the land and buildings of the former Miners' Welfare Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [193766]

Malcolm Wicks: Ownership of the land and buildings associated with miners' welfare trusts transferred to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) on 27 February 1998.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received in respect of the proposed Kingsnorth coal fired power station *(a)* in favour of the proposal and *(b)* against the proposal. [189224]

Malcolm Wicks: A large number of representations have been received and they will all be taken into account in the Secretary of State's decision.

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the exchange of e-mail correspondence between his Department and the company E.on of 12 and 16 January, whether the consent conditions relating to carbon capture and storage at the proposed coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, Kent *(a)* have been or *(b)* are planned to be (i) removed or (ii) varied; and if he will make a statement. [194163]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* I cannot comment on the outcome of the Secretary of State's decision on an active application. As you will be aware Medway council have not objected to the application subject to the inclusion of certain conditions in any planning permission the Secretary of State may deem to be granted. The Department is currently consulting on a set of draft planning conditions which would control the proposed development, mitigate its impacts and take into account the comments received from Medway council and others including for example, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The Department is still considering what conditions might be applied to the section 36 consent itself should the Secretary of State decide to grant consent under that section of the Electricity Act 1989.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163980]

Mr. Thomas: The full-time equivalent headcount for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (excludes Office and Manpower Economics and UK Trade and Industry), as of October 2007, is 2,539. A forecast figure for future years is not available but it is expected that a 5 per cent. settlement will probably mean reductions but these will be kept to a minimum.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies operate telephone contact centres. [173134]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer this question. Therefore, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

Exhibitions: Electronic Equipment

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide public funding to assist the holding of an electronic production exhibition in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [187841]

Malcolm Wicks: A privately organised "National Electronics Week" exhibition is being held at Earls Court on 17-19 June 2008. This event is being supported by the Electronics Knowledge Transfer Network, which is funded by the Technology Strategy Board, and by the UK Electronics Alliance, which was set up following a recommendation in the DTI-led Electronics Innovation and Growth Team Report.

Fireworks: Regulation

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Fireworks Act 2003; and whether he plans to introduce further restrictions on over-the-counter sale of fireworks. [179302]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* I expect the Act and Fireworks Regulations 2004 to be covered within the review of Consumer Safety legislation next year.

I have no plans to introduce further restrictions on over-the-counter sales.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the Government plan to restrict further the sale of fireworks; and if he will make a statement; [180145]

(2) if the Government will *(a)* consider a public ban on fireworks within the category 3 noise limit and *(b)* take steps to further reduce the decibel limit of category 3. [180146]

Mr. Thomas: I expect the Firework Act and Regulations (2004) to be covered within the review of consumer safety legislation next year.

I have no further plans to put further restrictions on over-the-counter sales.

Foreign Companies: Internet

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions there are on the use of internet domain names to prevent overseas businesses from describing themselves as UK companies. [189986]

Malcolm Wicks: The responsibility for registration of .co.uk domain names rests with Nominet, a private, not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. There are no restrictions which prevent overseas businesses from using a domain name ending in .co.uk, as Nominet offer an open system for registration for .co.uk domains. Some 92 per cent. of registrants have an address in the UK. The company seeks to ensure that contact details for registrants, which might be required in any dispute about the use of a .co.uk domain, are accurate, rather than trying to restrict their use to UK companies.

Heating: EU Law

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plans to take to ensure that UK manufacturers of heating controls are not financially disadvantaged as a result of the implementation of the Energy-using Products Directive. [193914]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission is bringing forward a wide range of measures under this directive, including one for heating and hot water systems that includes consideration of how control systems can be used to improve the energy efficiency of those appliances. As a single market directive, any measures made under the EuP framework will apply to all member states, ensuring free movement of compliant goods across the Community. Officials have consulted a wide range of stakeholders in the sector throughout the process, including through a specific UK stakeholder event that DEFRA and my Department organised for the sector in February. Officials have engaged with interested stakeholders in developing our negotiating position to ensure that it best maintains the interests of the UK industry.

Heating: Sustainable Development

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plans to take to maintain the competitiveness of UK manufacturers of heating controls in implementing the Energy Using Products Directive. [189463]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission is bringing forward a wide range of measures under this framework directive, including one for heating and hot water systems that includes consideration of how control systems can be used to improve the energy efficiency of those appliances. My officials and their colleagues in DEFRA are working closely together on the Commission's proposal and have been consulting the UK industry and other stakeholders in order that we can develop a negotiating position that best maintains the competitiveness of the sector. As a single market directive, any measures finally adopted under the EuP framework will apply equally to all member states, ensuring the free movement of UK goods across the Community.

Industrial Training: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department for people (i) over 55-years-old and (ii) in retirement to learn new job skills. [190012]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not provide grants or training schemes for people over 55-years-old and in retirement.

Industry: Electronic Equipment

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of trends in the levels of production by the UK electronics industry between 1995 and 2007. [187840]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table contains the requested information up to 2006, the latest year for which these statistics are currently available.

£ billion

	Total turnover excluding VAT	*Approximate gross value added (GVA)*
1995	28.7	8.8
1996	31.8	8.8
1997	35.9	9.8
1998	34.2	9.4
1999	34.1	8.3
2000	35.6	9.2
2001	33.6	8.1
2002	28.3	8.3
2003	23.3	7.8
2004	20.8	7.5
2005	19.7	7.4
2006	18.0	7.0

These statistics are taken from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) 2007, using SIC codes 30, 32.1, 32.3, 33.2, 33.3 and 33.402. These are the most relevant SIC codes, but the disparate nature of the electronics sector means that they can only provide an approximation of turnover and GVA for the electronics sector.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Heating

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* non-pensioners using liquid petroleum gas or fuel heating oil to heat their home in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of those people living in fuel poverty in each of those years. [194340]

Malcolm Wicks: The data requested is not available. In the fuel poverty detailed tables, available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf.

figures are broken down by household composition of the primary benefit unit (which includes a split for households with primary benefit unit aged over or below 60) and separately by the presence of central heating by main fuel. The main fuel categories are gas, electricity, communal, solid fuel and oil (which includes fuel oil and liquid petroleum gas). These figures show both the number of households in each specified category and the number that are fuel poor. However, a split is not available by household composition of the primary benefit unit and the presence of central heating by main fuel. If this cross tabulation were to be computed, sample sizes would be too small for accurate results to be drawn.

Natural Gas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many communities of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants have been connected to mains gas using his Department's design and demonstration unit model. [184878]

Malcolm Wicks: Twenty-one projects, which will provide mains to gas to 5,800 homes, have been delivered using the Design and Demonstration Unit model and with the direct involvement of the Unit. Further projects using the model are being delivered by Community Energy Solutions, a community interest company co-funded by the local Regional Development Agencies and my Department to undertake demonstration programmes in North-East England and Yorkshire and Humberside. Of these further projects, eight projects connecting 1,500 households have been completed or are in train, and more will be undertaken over the coming year. The model can also be used by organisations with no connection to BERR.

Nirex: Finance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the research budget was for Nirex in each year since it was established. [193569]

Malcolm Wicks: NIREX (Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive) was established in 1982 as an executive arm of the nuclear industry. It became a private company—UK Nirex Limited (Nirex)—in 1985. The following figures show the total expenditure by Nirex for the last 21 financial years. Separate figures for research are not available; nor are figures relating to the period before 1986. The figures are based on a combination of audited accounts and internal management figures.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£m)*
2006-07	14.5
2005-06	12.4
2004-05	12.1
2003-04	11.6
2002-03	12.5
2001-02	10.4
2000-01	11.7
1999-2000	13.1
1998-99	10.9
1997-98	25.0
1996-97	59.8
1995-96	54.6
1994-95	71.1
1993-94	80.5
1992-93	67.7
1991-92	53.3
1990-91	38.1
1989-90	16.5
1988-89	12.1
1987-88	8.5
1986-87	2.6
Total	598.82

Note:
All figures have been rounded up.

UK Nirex Limited (Nirex) was merged into the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and ceased trading on 31 March 2007.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Assets

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what value is assigned to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's stock of *(a)* plutonium, *(b)* reprocessed uranium and *(c)* depleted uranium from enrichment. [194136]

Malcolm Wicks: The stocks of plutonium, reprocessed uranium and depleted uranium owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) are currently treated as zero value rated assets.

In June 2007 the NDA published a report, "Uranium and Plutonium: Macro-economic study", which provided an economic analysis of potential future disposition options for the UK's stocks of nuclear materials. This is available on the NDA website at:

www.nda.gov.uk.

Office for Civil Nuclear Security: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Office for Civil Nuclear Security is fully staffed. [192820]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office for Civil Nuclear Security has a complement of 31.5 full time equivalent posts. All but two of these are currently filled. A recruitment exercise began on 6 March 2008 to fill the two vacancies.

Overseas Trade: Cyprus and Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and (i) Cyprus and (ii) Bermuda; how much his Department spent on trade promotion between the United Kingdom and (A) Cyprus and (B) Bermuda in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [165726]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment provides a range of support to help UK companies do business in Cyprus. Support is offered to companies individually under different programmes, and country specific statistics on spend are not kept.

The Department has no current or future plans to increase trade between the UK and Bermuda.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department and its predecessor work on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* Bermuda; and what the equivalent figures were in (i) 1983, (ii) 1987 and (iii) each year between 1998 and 2005. [165727]

Mr. Thomas: Help and advice for companies wishing to trade in Cyprus is delivered by officials responsible for programmes of support which are applicable across Europe and more widely. There has been no resource in BERR or its predecessor Department in the recent past devoted specifically to the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Cyprus.

There is no support for companies wishing to do business in Bermuda and no officials in BERR or its predecessor Department are, or have been, engaged on promoting trade between the United Kingdom and Bermuda.

Press: Advertising

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to require the publishers of newspapers and magazines to ensure that companies whose services are referred to in publications by way of *(a)* advertisement and *(b)* editorial copy are able to fulfil any legal obligations with regard to the protection of money deposited with them by their clients. [188326]

Malcolm Wicks: The advertiser, or their agent, is primarily responsible for ensuring that marketing communication is legal. A requirement for newspapers and magazines, or other media to act as enforcement agencies in respect of regulation of this sort on those advertising their services would be disproportionate as it would require publishers to be aware of any legal obligations in respect of deposited money for any services that might be advertised, to screen all adverts for the nature of the businesses undertaken by firms placing adverts with them and then to ascertain the ability of the company to meet those obligations. Consequently the Government have no plans to bring forward proposals of this sort.

Renewable Energy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department is on course to meet the target to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [165934]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The Department has purchased electricity from renewable sources since 1999. All HQ buildings are supplied with green electricity where the Department is responsible for the purchase of electricity supply which compares favourably to the Sustainable Development target for energy target which is to buy 10 per cent. by 2008.

(b) BERR has implemented various initiatives for meeting the Sustainable Development target for waste and recycling. The percentage of total waste arisings from the HQ estate sent for recycling was 55.1 per cent. against a target of 40 per cent. by 2010.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the potential electricity generating capacity of *(a)* wind power, *(b)* solar photovoltaics and *(c)* geothermal technologies in the UK; and if he will make statement. [192947]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department assessed the potential for offshore wind power in Future Offshore—a Strategic Framework for the Offshore Wind Industry. The potential wind resource around England, Wales and Scotland—assuming the installation of three-megawatt turbines at a separation distance of 500 metres and with a load factor of 40 per cent.—is 919 gigawatts.

A number of external studies have estimated the potential onshore wind resource. However, Government have not made a formal estimate of the possible electricity generation capacity from this source as we believe that it should be for the market to identify potential sites and bring forward appropriate projects that are economic, with support from the renewables obligation.

We commissioned a study on the potential for microgeneration completed in 2005. Further information on this can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27558.pdf

We have recently commissioned research which is due to be completed by spring 2008 which will quantify the future potential of microgeneration of wind power, solar photovoltaics and geothermal (by geothermal we assume you are referring to ground source heat pumps).

We will be considering the available evidence and commissioning further work as necessary as part of developing the renewable energy strategy.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 708-9W, on renewable energy: standards, what modelling his Department has conducted on how the UK can meet its share of the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020; if he will publish the results; and if he will make a statement. [192932]

Malcolm Wicks: In response to the European proposal for a directive on the promotion and use of energy from renewable sources, the Government have recently published research undertaken by Poyry Energy Consultants for BERR (

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/strategy/page43356.html).

This research models renewable technologies in 2020, and presents the least cost technology approach to meeting the renewable energy target set out in the Directive.

Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in the summer on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet the UK's contribution. We will publish our full renewable energy strategy in spring 2009 once the EU directive has been agreed.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 708-9W, on renewable energy: standards, what work his Department has conducted on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* policy consequences of meeting the UK's likely share of the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020; if he will publish this work; and if he will make a statement. [192957]

Malcolm Wicks: In response to the European proposal for a directive on the promotion and use of energy from renewable sources, the Government have recently published research undertaken by Poyry Energy Consultants for BERR

(http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/strategy/page43356.html).

This research models renewable technologies in 2020, and presents the least cost technology approach to meeting the renewable energy target set out in the Directive.

Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in the summer on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet the UK's contribution. We will publish our full renewable energy strategy in spring 2009 once the EU Directive has been agreed.

Sellafield: Plutonium

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many shipments of plutonium have been made from Sellafield to France in 2008; which transporter vessels were used; what security protection was in place for each carrier; and what notification of plutonium movements was given to foreign governments. [194267]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no such shipments.

Small Businesses

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small companies registered in each region in each year since 1999; and how many have registered in 2007-08 to date. [186192]

Malcolm Wicks: VAT registration data provides the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in each region and country are shown below for 1999 to 2006. Data for VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT is published by BERR. However, it is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and 1.7 per cent. will be medium-sized (with 50-249 employees). It is not possible to establish the proportion of these businesses that will be companies, rather than other legal forms.

Table 1: New VAT registrations by region, 1999 to 2006

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	4,185	4,275	4,180	4,390	4,900	4,460	4,665	4,630
North West	16,875	17,155	16,485	17,385	19,005	18,080	17,940	17,920
Yorkshire and the Humber	11,740	12,005	11,665	12,440	13,840	13,060	12,935	12,900
East Midlands	11,185	11,615	11,250	11,970	12,835	12,385	12,240	12,320
West Midlands	14,445	14,595	14,120	14,600	15,810	15,160	14,785	14,800
East	16,845	17,630	16,655	17,820	18,735	17,815	17,955	17,495
London	36,210	36,330	33,400	32,955	35,750	35,320	34,875	34,825
South East	28,820	28,830	27,250	28,655	30,755	28,795	28,380	28,680
South West	15,330	15,380	14,455	15,555	16,625	15,495	15,220	15,745
England	155,630	157,815	149,460	155,770	168,250	160,565	158,995	159,315
Wales	6,120	6,290	6,025	6,430	7,145	7,040	6,625	6,625
Scotland	11,505	11,345	10,980	11,130	11,980	11,980	11,665	11,825
Northern Ireland	3,660	3,455	3,550	3,590	3,845	4,200	4,450	4,445
UK	176,915	178,905	170,015	176,920	191,220	183,780	181,735	182,205

Source:
Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2005 available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of new registrations in each region has fluctuated between 1999 and 2006 (see Table 1), the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased in all regions over the period (see Table 2). Overall, the stock of VAT registered businesses in the UK has increased by 246 thousand (14 per cent.) between the start of 1999 and the start of 2007 and new registrations have exceeded de-registrations in each year.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Table 2: Stock of VAT-registered businesses by region, start of 1999—start of 2007

	1999	*2007*	*Change 1999-2007*	*% Change 1999-2007*
North East	43,170	49,435	6,265	15
North West	163,580	186,045	22,465	14
Yorkshire and the Humber	123,810	139,970	16,160	13
East Midlands	115,525	134,195	18,670	16
West Midlands	143,520	164,810	21,290	15
East	171,325	196,480	25,155	15
London	262,280	309,225	46,945	18
South East	265,235	306,920	41,685	16

Table 2: Stock of VAT-registered businesses by region, start of 1999—start of 2007

	1999	2007	Change 1999-2007	% Change 1999-2007
South West	161,545	183,420	21,875	14
England	1,449,995	1,670,500	220,505	15
Wales	78,280	84,995	6,715	9
Scotland	125,030	136,890	11,860	9
Northern Ireland	57,335	64,365	7,030	12
UK	1,710,645	1,956,750	246,105	14

Source:
Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2006 available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Solar Power: Heating

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the potential thermal capacity of solar heating technology in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [192940]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department monitors and collects in relation to telephone contact centres. [175767]

Mr. Thomas: The information required to answer this question could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Toys and Games: Safety

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Council of Ministers and *(b)* the European Commission on proposed changes to regulations governing toy safety. [194882]

Mr. Thomas: BERR has been actively involved in discussions with European colleagues and the Commission in the preparation of the draft Directive on the Safety of Toys which was published on 25 January. They will continue to engage with the development of the directive in Council working groups.

UK Trade and Investment: Expenditure

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of UK Trade and Investment's budget is spent on *(a)* promoting exports and *(b)* encouraging inward investment. [179658]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment has three budget streams: UKTI programme, which is voted directly to the UKTI Chief Executive as Accounting Officer, and devolved administration budgets from both of its parent departments—Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The percentage of UKTI's total budget spent on *(a)* promoting exports is approximately 70 per cent. and *(b)* encouraging inward investment is approximately 30 per cent.

HEALTH

National Stroke Strategy

12. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the implementation of the national stroke strategy. [194633]

Alan Johnson: I launched the new strategy for stroke services in England in December last year. We expect PCTs to begin work in earnest to implement the stroke strategy from April of this year, and this has been reflected in their allocations. But we know that many parts of the service already have plans underway.

Children's Health

13. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve children's health and well-being; and if he will make a statement. [194634]

Dawn Primarolo: Improving outcomes for children is a priority across the range of responsibilities of the Government. The recently published Children's Plan set out how the work is focused towards achieving a long term vision. With colleagues in DCSF, we have established a dedicated public service agreement to focus improvements and investment in child health and wellbeing, and are working on the development of a child health strategy.

National Service Framework: Long-term Conditions

14. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on implementation of the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions. [194635]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions contains quality requirements, describing the level of service local health and social care economies are expected to achieve. The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme, with flexibility for organisations to take account of local priorities.

NHS Dentistry

15. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry. [194636]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recent data show that 27.6 million people saw an NHS dentist at least once in the 24 months ending September 2007.

We are committed to increasing access to NHS dentistry, and have made this a requirement for PCTs in the NHS Operating Framework. We are increasing dental funding by 11 per cent.

General Practitioners: Extended Opening Hours

16. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on his plans to extend opening hours of general practitioners surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [194637]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am pleased that the British Medical Association has agreed new arrangements for GP practices to be open in the evenings and at weekends. These new arrangements will benefit patients, the NHS and GPs.

Hospital Construction: Pembury

17. **Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for building the new private finance initiative hospital in Pembury; and if he will make a statement. [194638]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have given final approval for the scheme to reach financial close today. I expect the formal contract for the new £226 million hospital at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to be signed shortly. Construction of the new facilities is due to begin in late March, and the first patients are scheduled to be admitted in early 2011. The project should be completed by autumn 2012.

Prescription Drugs: Importation

19. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to monitor the importation of prescription drugs purchased overseas. [194640]

Dawn Primarolo: I am aware of the issue the hon. Gentleman raises. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is monitoring all prescription medicines offered for direct sale on the internet and is working closely with HM Revenue and Customs and international authorities.

General Practitioner Contract

21. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the outcome of negotiations on the general practitioner contract. [194642]

Mr. Bradshaw: We welcome general practitioners' (GP) support to the proposed agreement on the GP contract. This will provide practices with the opportunity to deliver more convenient surgery opening hours for their patients and to be rewarded for doing so. We will work with the British Medical Association to continue to put patients at the centre of improving the quality of care.

Dietary Salt Intake

22. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will commission research on the health effect of dietary salt intake. [194643]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2003 the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) recommended that a reduction from nine grammes to six grammes in average population salt intake would proportionally lower blood pressure levels and reduce the risk of heart disease.

At present, we do not intend to commission further research on the health effect of dietary salt intake.

Polyclinics: Bassetlaw

23. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the appropriate number of polyclinics for Bassetlaw. [194644]

Mr. Bradshaw: Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for determining and commissioning the appropriate range of services to meet local health need. Like every PCT in England, Bassetlaw will receive additional investment to procure new general practitioner-led health centre provision. The model to deliver this new service is a local matter.

Seroxat

24. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the use of data from clinical trials of the drug Seroxat. [194645]

Dawn Primarolo: As per the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 121WS, I informed the House of the outcome of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency investigation into Glaxosmithkline withholding relevant information gathered in clinical trials on seroxat. In the interests of public health it is important that all relevant data gathered in clinical trials of medicines are submitted promptly to the regulator.

NHS Trusts: Clinical Staff

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on the management of suspension of clinical staff. [194630]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service rules make clear that patient safety and the quality of care are paramount. Staff should expect fair treatment in accordance with employment rules and their contract. Trusts also have a duty to ensure taxpayers' money is not wasted. The number and duration of suspensions has significantly dropped in recent years thanks to the excellent work of the National Clinical Advisory Service.

Elderly People: Care

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the provision of care to the elderly. [194639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A number of steps are being taken to improve the provision of care to elderly including:

a three-year social care transformation programme beginning this April in every local authority area;

the first ever national dementia strategy to be published in the autumn;

the new deal for carers to be announced by the Prime Minister in the spring;

the extension of our Dignity in Care campaign;

Commission for Social Care Inspection review of social care eligibility criteria and introduction of star ratings for care providers;

the review of the adult protection framework;

Lord Darzi's national health service next stage final report;

Public consultation leading to a Green Paper on the nature and funding of the care and support system for adults; and

Work supported by continued growth in NHS and social care investment.

Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in England had more than *(a)* four, *(b)* five, *(c)* six and *(d)* seven abortions by the end of 2006. [194641]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is as follows and is available in table 4b of the Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006 copies of which are available in the Library.

Table 4b: legal abortions: number of previous abortions by age[1], 2006—England and Wales, residents

Number of previous abortions	*Total*	*under 18*	*18 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30+*
0	131,833	17,173	57,000	28,222	29,438
1	47,156	1,341	17,047	13,697	15,071
2	10,944	82	3,147	3,540	4,175
3	2,501	[2]—	[2]—	826	1,128
4	947	[2]—	[2]—	300	412
5	192	[2]—	[2]—	65	108
6	110	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	53
7 or more	54	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	33
Total	193,737	18,619	78,007	46,693	50,418

[1] Age not stated have been distributed prorata across age group 20 to 24.

[2] Values are suppressed where totals are less than 10 (0 to 9) or where a presented total would reveal the suppressed value.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treatment, counselling and other support services for *(a)* alcohol addiction and *(b)* illicit drug addiction in each of the last 10 years. [193439]

Dawn Primarolo: The Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project reported in 2005 that the national health service spent an estimated £217 million a year in England in 2003-04. An extra £15 million in additional funding has been included within primary care trusts (PCTs) general allocations from 2007-08 to improve alcohol interventions.

NHS spending on alcohol interventions is not collected centrally, so historic figures are not available.

The National Audit Office will carry out an audit of NHS alcohol spend on interventions and specialist treatment and this is expected to report in the summer of 2008. This will provide a comprehensive picture of how different areas are funding provision for alcohol harms.

Since 2001, the Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This funding is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. We do not hold information on drug treatment spend prior to 2001.

PTB allocations and local investment in drug treatment is shown in the following table.

£ million

	PTB allocation	*Local funding amount*
2001-02	142	145
2002-03	191	131
2003-04	236	200
2004-05	253	204
2005-06	300	208
2006-07	385	212
2007-08	398	206
2008-09	398	[1]206

[1] Estimated spend for 2008-09.

In addition to the money spent directly on delivering treatment, central and local government funding is also spent on improving access to treatment (e.g. for offenders via Drugs Interventions Programme) and supporting drug misusers after they come out of treatment (e.g. aftercare and supporting people).

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allocate increased funding to specialist alcohol treatment services. [194337]

Dawn Primarolo: An extra £15 million in additional funding has been included within primary care trusts (PCTs) general allocations from 2007-08 to improve alcohol interventions.

Alcohol treatment, like all other national health service services is not separately funded but met from mainstream NHS resources. It is for local PCTs to arrange to meet local needs from their resources; they are in the best position to assess the merits of various types of local activity and to determine the allocation of funds at their disposal.

Alcoholic Drugs: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admissions to hospital there were where an illness related to *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* an illicit drug was a primary or secondary diagnosis at the outset in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust. [193816]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 465-55W.

Within the system of diagnostic codes used to classify admission to hospital, it is not possible to differentiate whether these drugs have been taken illicitly or if they have been prescribed, e.g. morphine or codeine for pain relief, and a patient has accidentally overdosed.

Children: Developing Countries

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take towards implementing the UN global strategy for infant and young child feeding. [193756]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department supports the World Health Organisation Global Strategy for infant and young child feeding and has implemented several of its recommendations. In line with the Strategy, the Department recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infant's life and continued breastfeeding along with solid foods thereafter. The Department is encouraging all health care settings to adopt the principles of Baby Friendly Initiative and have recently produced information leaflets for parents jointly with Unicef UK on breastfeeding, weaning and safe bottle feeding. In addition, we have implemented the new regulations on infant and follow-on formula introducing stricter controls on advertising of all types of formulae, to ensure that breastfeeding is not undermined by marketing of such products.

The Department promotes breastfeeding through a range of initiatives including National Breastfeeding Awareness Week to be held from 11-17 May with the aim of encouraging young mothers from disadvantaged groups to initiate and continue breastfeeding. Increased support is provided through an easily accessible national telephone helpline, which provides information to enable mothers to sustain breastfeeding during the early weeks and beyond.

We have recently announced a £75 million, three year marketing programme in the cross-Government Obesity Strategy, which will inform, support and empower parents in making changes to their children's diet and levels of physical activity. The programme will particularly focus on the early years including: maternal nutrition, encouraging breastfeeding and supporting healthy weaning and healthy diets in young children.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192511]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 2006 one appeal to the Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB) has been decided, during 2007. The appeal was not upheld, so no compensation or reinstatement resulted. The reason for dismissal which related to that appeal was redundancy.

Prior to 2006, information from the Department is not available without incurring disproportionate costs as it would be necessary to refer to individual staff files.

No appeals to the CSAB took place from the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency during the requested period.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the sums to be paid by his Department in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193771]

Mr. Bradshaw: Approximately £48,000 was paid in unoccupied business rates by the Department in 2007-08 and it is estimated that £72,000 will be paid in 2008-09.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on departmental standards, which standard was not met by each trust listed in the document placed in the Library that did not meet all the core Standards for Better Health in 2006-07; and for what reasons in each case for which information is available. [188358]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is available from the Healthcare Commission.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on departmental standards, (1) by how much staff numbers at University Hospital Lewisham NHS Trust were reduced as noted in the document placed in the Library; and what the effect was on capacity at the Trust in 2006-07; [188379]

(2) what weaknesses Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Partnership NHS Trusts demonstrated in relation to the management of bank and agency staff in 2006-07, as noted in the document placed in the Library; [188380]

(3) for what reason the Barnet Primary Care Trust breast screening programme had to be suspended for patient safety in 2006-07, as noted in the document placed in the Library; [188381]

(4) what problems were experienced by South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust with its loan arrangement in 2006-07, as noted in the document placed in the Library. [188382]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

The specific significant control issues referred to in the questions are included in the Statement on Internal Control of the relevant trust and these are published alongside the annual accounts. This information can be obtained directly from the trusts concerned.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on departmental standards, what contractual problems with dentists were experienced by Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust in 2006-07, as noted in the document placed in the Library. [188383]

Mr. Bradshaw: North West Strategic Health Authority had set Ellesmere Port and Neston Primary Care Trust and Cheshire West Primary Care Trust a combined target of 417,094 units of dental activity. Following the re-organisation of primary care trusts in October 2006, the newly formed PCT—Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust—completed a six-month review with all its dental contractors and a revised target of 483,474 units of dental activity was agreed. The final annual financial reconciliation figure for 2006-07 showed that dentists across the PCT area produced a total of 430,807 units of dental activity.

Since the finalised year-end figures have been received, the PCT has organised annual reviews with each provider, to review their achievement against their contract for the full year 2006-07 and determine any further changes required for individual contracts.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many written Questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193401]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Number of weeks since Department received parliamentary question (as at 25 February 2008)	*Number of parliamentary questions yet to receive an answer*	*Number of these that were named day questions*
Two to four	140	5
Four to six	29	0
Six to eight	10	0
More than eight	19	1

Dietary Supplements: Nutrition

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he and Ministers in his Department plan to hold with European counterparts on the Government's objectives for the outcome of negotiations on the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; and if he will make a statement; [195281]

(2) what the likely date is for the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements under the provisions of the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [195283]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet with European counterparts on the Government's objectives for the outcome of negotiations on the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements. Food Standards Agency officials will hold bilateral meetings with their European counterparts on an individual basis and at European Commission working group meetings.

The Commission has indicated its intention for proposals in the form of draft amending legislation to go forward to the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health for consideration in early 2009. A date for completion of the negotiation process has not been set.

General Practitioners

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of UK residents not registered with a GP; and whether a recent assessment has been made of the reasons. [194419]

Mr. Bradshaw: These data are not collected centrally by the Department.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England were seen by out-of-hours GP services in each year since 1997. [195145]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to approach the chief executive of South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) for information on numbers of patients seen by out of hours general practitioner services.

PCTs now have a legal responsibility to ensure that they provide, or secure provision of out of hours services for their local population.

Health Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP practices, *(b)* dental practices, *(c)* ophthalmic practices and *(d)* pharmacies there were in (i) England and (ii) each English region in each of the last three years. [191507]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of general practitioner (GP) practices and GPs, excluding retainers and registrars, in each strategic health authority (SHA) and all of England on 30 September in 2005 to 2007, which are the latest data available.

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
	GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	*GP practices*	*GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*	*GP practices*	*GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*	*GP practices*
England	32,738	8,451	33,091	8,325	33,364	8,261
North East	1,726	404	1,815	396	1,779	394

	2005		2006		2007	
	GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	*GP practices*	*GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*	*GP practices*	*GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*	*GP practices*
North West	4,311	1,303	4,392	1,285	4,436	1,272
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,372	826	3,386	817	3,460	807
East Midlands	2,573	630	2,570	621	2,656	627
West Midlands	3,357	989	3,390	968	3,432	965
East of England	3,510	802	3,568	778	3,510	769
London	4,896	1,591	4,868	1,579	4,953	1,546
South East Coast	2,641	649	2,684	638	2,700	644
South Central	2,543	511	2,611	500	2,638	503
South West	3,809	746	3,807	743	3,800	734

Notes:
1. Data as at 30 September 2005-2007.
2. Historical data prior to 2006 have been mapped to new SHA areas to provide estimates for comparability.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
General and personal medical services statistics.

The following table shows the number of nation health service dental practices with an open general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) contract in England, by SHA, as at 31 March 2004 to 2006. The number of dental practices in each SHA and all of England is based upon the old dental contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) Dental Services Division (DSD) can only provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices at disproportionate cost.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
England	8,922	8,908	9,015
East Midlands	612	626	633
East of England	927	926	935
London	1,486	1,483	1,502
North East	401	401	395
North West	1,217	1,224	1,246
South Central	755	761	771
South East Coast	864	854	860
South West	939	923	940
West Midlands	891	890	905
Yorkshire and the Humber	830	820	828

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open GDS or PDS contracts.
2. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the SHA.
3. Data include all notifications of dentists joining or leaving the GDS or PDS, received by the NHS BSA, up to 24 July 2006.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
NHS BSA DSD.

The following table shows the number of NHS general ophthalmic services practitioners premises, by SHA, in England as at 31 December 2006, which is the latest year currently available. England totals are also provided for 2004 and 2005.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
England	5,795	5,790	5,748
East Midlands	n/a	n/a	497
East of England	n/a	n/a	567
London	n/a	n/a	864
North East	n/a	n/a	262
North West	n/a	n/a	851
South Central	n/a	n/a	413
South East Coast	n/a	n/a	457
South West	n/a	n/a	580
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	642
Yorkshire and the Humber	n/a	n/a	615

n/a = Not applicable (regional breakdown for 2004 and 2005 is currently not available)

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

The following table shows the number of community pharmacies in contract with primary care trusts, by SHA, in England as at 31 March 2005 to 2007, which are the latest data available.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
England	9,736	9,872	10,133
East Midlands	749	759	785
East of England	940	953	986
London	1,742	1,738	1,762
North East	508	514	527
North West	1,475	1,498	1,551
South Central	641	651	660
South East Coast	754	767	787
South West	895	916	929
West Midlands	1,063	1,080	1,110
Yorkshire and the Humber	969	996	1,036

Note:
The SHAs were reorganised in July 2006 and data for 2007 is as published. The data for 2005 and 2006, originally published in the 28 old SHAs have been combined to give the best estimate of figures for the new 10 SHAs.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
The General Pharmaceutical Services (Annual Bulletin) 2006-07.

Health Services: Religion

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department gives to primary care trusts on the treatment of patients of diverse religious beliefs. [193633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises that we all now live in a multicultural, multi-faith society. The Department is committed to recognising the needs of patients and staff of diverse religious groups, and to responding sensitively and appropriately to these needs.

As part of a series of guides to support the national health service in complying with existing and forthcoming public sector duties on equalities, the Department has commissioned guidance for the NHS on religion and belief which will be published in April 2008 and once available will be placed in the Library. This guidance will outline examples of good practice and feature case studies from NHS organisations that are working towards achieving equality in treatment of patients from diverse religious backgrounds.

The NHS has been committed for some time to the recognition of the needs of patients and staff of diverse religious groups. Guidance on meeting the spiritual needs of patients and staff has been in place since 1992 and states that:

> The NHS should, where necessary, make every effort to provide for the spiritual needs of patients and staff. As far as reasonably possible, this provision should recognise the welfare needs of both Christians and non-Christians.

In November 2003 the Department published "NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual needs of Patients and Staff", which aims to ensure that NHS chaplaincy services reflect the religious diversity of the communities the NHS serves. This guidance was developed with advice from the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy, an independent group, which includes representatives from nine faith communities. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_3062016

In December 2007 the Department published a leaflet entitled "Going to Hajj or Umrah"? This leaflet explains and offers advice on some of the risks concerning meningitis for travellers to the Muslim pilgrimage.

Health: Equality

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce health inequalities in England. [195224]

Dawn Primarolo: Health inequalities are unacceptable. That is why in 2005 the Government introduced the most ambitious programme ever seen in this country to address them.

This commitment was strengthened further in September 2007, when my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Department will publish a comprehensive strategy in 2008 for reducing health inequalities that will address unjustified gaps in health status and ensure fair access to national health service services for everyone and good outcomes of care for all.

The current cross-Government national health inequalities strategy, 'Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action' is in place to deliver the 2010 health inequalities target to narrow the gap in infant mortality, by social class, and life expectancy at birth, by geographical area.

A review of the infant mortality element of the 2010 target, published in February 2007, will help improve delivery of local services to disadvantaged populations by working in partnership with local government and others. An implementation plan and good practice guide to promote the findings of the review was published in December 2007.

Health inequalities are a key priority for the NHS as set out in the NHS operating framework 2008-09. Incentives for the NHS and local authorities have been aligned with the same health inequalities indicators in both the NHS operating framework 2008-09—Vital Signs and the New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment supports primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities to develop a whole health and social care system, which meets the needs of local people and takes account of inequalities, and Communities for Health is a local authority-led initiative focused on health improvement and reducing health inequalities by promoting action across local organisations, including all Spearheads.

The Department is also providing tailored, intensive, assistance to areas that face the biggest challenges in delivering the 2010 target. We have established national support teams on health inequalities and on tobacco control and smoking cessation that will disseminate best practice across areas with high infant mortality rates and Spearhead areas—the local authority areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and PCTs which map to them.

The Department and the Association of Public Health Observatories have developed the interactive Health Inequalities Intervention Tool. Launched in August 2007, the tool helps local health services and councils improve life expectancy in Spearhead areas.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department has received from users of stoma and urology products commenting on the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care in the last three months. [194168]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Department has received over 2,100 letters and e-mails concerning part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care since 12 December 2007. However, the Department can supply the number of these that were specifically from users of stoma and urology products only at disproportionate cost.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1078W, on influenza, whether the final uptake data for the season 2007-08 seasonal influenza campaign are now available. [192387]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The final uptake data for 2007-08 seasonal flu campaign are also available at:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/Flu/Vaccine/Influenza_vaccine_uptake_results_by_age_and_PCT

Injuries: Children

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal accidental injuries sustained by children in 2007; and what estimate he has made of the number of these which were the result of participation in sport; [193931]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of serious injuries arising from playing rugby that resulted in *(a)* quadriplegia, *(b)* paraplegia, *(c)* concussion, *(d)* ligament damage and *(e)* fractures in males aged (i) 12 to 15 and (ii) over 16-years-old, broken down by region, in 2007. [193932]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on serious and fatal accidental injuries for 2007 would normally be provided by the Office for National Statistics but is not yet available. Information is not collected centrally on serious and fatal accidental injuries that result from participation in sport including rugby.

Lancashire Ambulance Trust: Standards

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the Lancashire Ambulance Trust did not meet its target call-out time in the last 12 months. [194393]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the available performance data for the North West Ambulance Service Trust are shown in the following table.

Data held on ambulance services are already published in the publication: "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07" which is available in the Library.

Emergency incidents: response times by ambulance service and category A call, in North West Ambulance trust 2006-07

	England	*North West*
Total number of incidents with emergency response (thousand)	1,795.8	277.7
Total number of incidents with emergency response within eight minutes (thousand)	1,340.3	201.8
Response within eight minutes (percentage)	74.6	72.7

Source:
Form KA34, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Emergency incidents: response times by ambulance service and category B call in the North West, 2006-07

	England	*North West*
Total number of incidents with ambulance vehicle arriving (thousand)	2,378.9	351.5
Response within 19 minutes (percentage)	90.5	91.2

Note:
For 2006-07 the 14/19 minute response times were dropped with the urban/rural split and replaced with 19 minutes for all trusts.
Source:
Form KA34, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Macular Degeneration

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the Moorfields eye hospital guidelines for treatment for macular degeneration. [194623]

Dawn Primarolo: It would not be appropriate for the Department to publish these. However, we understand that Moorfields eye hospital would, on request from my hon. Friend, send him a copy of the guidelines they use in assessing cases of age related macular degeneration before applying to primary care trusts for funding.

Mental Health Services: Admissions

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the occupancy rates of *(a)* medium and *(b)* high security mental health beds were in each mental health trust in each of the last five years. [193755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the form requested. Data are collected on the numbers of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds, available and occupied, in NHS units. The data are not broken down by mental health trusts and do not include independent sector beds.

Data on the average daily number of mental health secure unit beds, and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units in England over the last five years is set out in the table:

Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Available Mental Illness	2,064	2,569	2,696	2,807	2,993
Occupancy Mental Illness	n/a	2,378	2,472	2,545	2,722
Available Learning Disability	508	514	503	526	516
Occupancy Learning Disability	n/a	470	484	502	489

n/a = not available
[1] The definitions of Mental Health and Learning Disability Secure Unit Beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are:
Mental illness—other ages, Secure unit
An Age Group Intended of National Code 8 'Any age', a Broad Patient Group Code of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a Clinical Care Intensity of National Code 51 'for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management. This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward'.
Learning disabilities—other ages, Secure unit
An Age Group Intended of National Code 8 'Any age', a Broad Patient Group Code of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a Clinical Care Intensity of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit'.
Source:
[1] Department of Health Dataset KH03.

In addition to these data, service level agreements provide information on the number of high secure beds commissioned for the last five years. This is set out in the following table.

Number of high secure beds commissioned by NHS

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Ashworth	436	436	278	295	270
Broadmoor	408	360	408	416	273
Rampton	459	427	388	379	413

MMR Vaccine: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children *(a)* aged around 13 months and *(b)* immediately before starting school were given the MMR vaccine in each of the last five years. [191451]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about the uptake of MMR immunisations and other childhood immunisations is published annually. The latest information is contained in the Statistical Bulletin "NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07". Copies of 2004-05 and 2005-06 bulletins are available in the Library. Copies of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2006-07 bulletins have been placed in the Library.

The bulletins are also available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/immunisation

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of calls to NHS Direct were referred to *(a)* 999, *(b)* accident and emergency, *(c)* an out-of-hours GP service, *(d)* self-care, *(e)* a pharmacy and *(f)* another service in each quarter since January 2003. [192449]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

NHS Direct—Sorting of clinical calls

Quarter	*999*	*Accident and Emergency*	*General practitioner (GP)*[1]	*Self Care*[2]	*Other*
2003					
Q1	4.6	9.2	33.4	25.8	26.9
Q2	4.5	9.8	33.2	25.4	27.1
Q3	4.9	10.6	32.8	25.1	26.6
Q4	5.0	8.5	33.2	23.9	29.4
2004					
Q1	5.1	9.2	33.7	26.0	26.1
Q2	5.0	8.9	32.9	26.7	26.6
Q3	4.9	8.3	30.8	28.8	27.1
Q4	4.8	7.3	31.1	29.0	27.8
2005					
Q1	4.4	6.5	30.1	28.0	30.9
Q2	4.4	7.5	28.8	28.9	30.5
Q3	4.4	7.7	28.3	29.4	30.2
Q4	4.7	7.5	31.3	29.4	27.1
2006					
Q1	4.6	7.2	32.3	29.5	26.4
Q2	4.1	7.9	29.8	30.5	27.8
Q3	4.3	8.1	25.8	30.1	31.8
Q4	4.4	7.5	27.0	29.5	31.7
2007					
Q1	4.4	7.6	26.7	29.7	31.7
Q2	4.0	8.3	27.8	33.0	26.8
Q3	4.0	8.6	26.9	35.9	24.6
Q4	4.4	7.9	27.8	35.9	24.0
2008					
Q1	4.0	7.8	26.8	39.2	22.1

[1] Includes all GP referrals

[2] category includes referral to a pharmacy

NHS: Drugs

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of patients prescribed Cox 2 inhibitors in the last 10 years and *(b)* the number of those prescriptions which involved Vioxx as part of the treatment programme. [193801]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on number of patients prescribed drugs, only on prescription items that are dispensed. The number of items dispensed since 1999 for Cox 2 inhibitors and Vioxx is provided in the following table. There is no record of prescribing prior to this date.

Prescription items dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

	Cox 2 inhibitors (including Vioxx)	*Vioxx*
1997	0.0	0.0
1998	0.0	0.0
1999	162.6	162.6
2000	894.1	784.5
2001	1,943.8	1,269.8
2002	3,241.8	1,780.8
2003	4,509.0	2,128.6
2004	5,233.0	1,831.3
2005	1,317.1	0.9
2006	1,014.2	0.1

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis system.

NHS: Fraud

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the NHS Countering Fraud and Corruption manual. [195189]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Countering Fraud and Corruption manual is a restricted operational document that gives detailed guidance on the methods used by accredited NHS counter fraud specialists to prevent and detect fraud in the national health service. A copy of this manual cannot be placed in the Library as it is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Nutrition

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Food Standards Agency's proposed nutrient profiling scheme will relate to the scheme being developed by the European Commission and European Food Safety Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Nutrition and Health Claims on Food Regulation; and if he will make a statement. [195282]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency's Nutrient Profiling (NP) model and the NP model being developed by the European Commission are intended for different purposes. The agency model is used to control television advertising to children, while the European model will be to control nutrition and health claims on foods. The agency's model is consistent with the scientific principles set out in the recent European Food Safety Authority opinion on nutrient profiling.

Obesity: Artificial Sweeteners

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on possible links between the use of aspartame in foods and obesity levels; and if he will make a statement. [193356]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not undertaken research or evaluation specifically on the effect of aspartame consumption on obesity levels.

Aspartame, if used to replace added sugar in foods, can help to reduce its energy content and contribute to consumer choice. The Government's healthy eating advice remains that consumers should limit their intake of sugary foods and drinks and that sugars should provide no more than 10 per cent. of dietary energy.

Palliative Care: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [194436]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Barnsley PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Palliative Care: York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been implemented in the Vale of York. [193803]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including North Yorkshire and York PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in the Vale of York. [193804]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including North Yorkshire and York PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

Polyclinics

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research the Department has commissioned on the likely clinical outcomes from polyclinics. [188207]

Mr. Bradshaw: The term polyclinic can be used to define a range of possible health service models characterised by the co-location and integration of different services, including those traditionally provided in a hospital outpatient setting and diagnostic services. International evidence available from these types of service models is that they can prevent out-patient appointments and reduce hospital admissions. However, clinical outcomes will depend on a range of local factors, including the local design of the services in question.

The clinical design of national health service services is determined locally by primary care trusts and service providers based on local health needs. As part of the NHS Next Stage Review, there are currently some two thousand clinicians considering the best, evidence-based models of care and delivery models.

Sex: Young People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of people under 17 years old who had had sexual intercourse in England in each of the last five years. [194270]

Dawn Primarolo: Annual tracking surveys of sexual health campaigns have been undertaken by an independent market research company, TNS, since 2002. It is estimated from data from the surveys between 2004 and 2008 (based on 3,076, 16 to 24-year-olds (including young people who were not yet sexually active)) that 60 per cent. of young people claim to have had sex before they reached the age of 17 and this has not changed in the last five years. The surveys also found the average age of first sex to be 16.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 17-year-olds were diagnosed with a sexually-transmitted infection in England in each of the last five years. [194273]

Dawn Primarolo: Age specific data are not collected centrally and are only available by age groups. The following table shows the total number of new diagnoses of selected sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in under 16s and 16 to 19-year-olds in England.

Total number of new diagnoses of selected STIs in under 16s and 16 to 19-year-olds in genitor-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England: 2002-06

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Under 16	*16-19*	*Under 16*	*16-19*	*Under 16*	*16-19*	*Under 16*	*16-19*	*Under 16*	*16-19*
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	1,115	20,072	1,372	22,486	1,367	24,698	1,314	25,344	1,327	25,658
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	340	4,906	322	4,737	261	4,271	230	3,391	193	3,348
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	3	43	3	51	3	61	17	102	8	100
Anogenital herpes simplex - first attack	149	2,322	151	2,369	142	2,462	140	2,563	144	3,017
Anogenital warts - first attack	552	11,278	574	11,929	584	12,924	514	13,235	621	13,973

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with chlamydia several times in one year and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not yet available for 2007.
5. Data are only collected by age for the five main STIs.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister *(a)* how many, *(b)* which and *(c)* how often (i) Cabinet Office civil servants, (ii) Number 10 civil servants and (iii) Number 10 political staff have been at Chequers in his absence. [195285]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 825W.

Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Prime Minister how many written questions to him had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193392]

The Prime Minister: My Office aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions within five working days, and named day written parliamentary questions on the day named.

Since the start of the current parliamentary session 100 per cent. of named day questions were answered on the day named. As at 25 February 2008 two parliamentary questions remained unanswered; neither of these were for named day answer.

Ministers: Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of using empty official ministerial residences as Government offices; and if he will make a statement. [192317]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by both my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2175-6W and me on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

TREASURY

Birth Rate: Young People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the birth rate for under 17-year-olds was in England in each of the last five years. [194271]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the birth rate for under 17 year olds in England in each of the last 5 years. (194271)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The table below shows the birth rate for women aged under 17 in England for the years 2002 to 2006.

Birth rate for women aged under 17 years, England, 2002-2006

	Birth rate per 1,000 women[1]
2002	7.5
2003	7.2
2004	7.1
2005	6.8
2006	6.9

[1] Live births to women aged under 17 per 1,000 women aged 15 or 16.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many under 17-year-olds *(a)* gave birth and *(b)* had an abortion in England in each of the last five years. [194272]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many under 17 year olds (a) gave birth and (b) had an abortion in England in each of the last five years. (194272)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Number of conceptions leading to maternities and abortions for girls aged under 17 from 2002 to 2006 (latest year for which figures are available) are provided so that meaningful comparisons can be made on number of abortions and maternities that occur each year by age of woman. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 17 that lead to a maternity or an abortion, 2002 to 2006, England

	Conceptions leading to a maternity	*Conceptions leading to an abortion*	*Total conceptions*
2002	10,061	10,006	20,067
2003	9,906	10,137	20,043
2004	9,929	10,031	19,960
2005	9,840	10,164	20,004
2006[1]	9,121	10,425	19,546

[1] Conceptions for 2006 are provisional.

Business: British Overseas Territories

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to require all UK overseas territories to adopt the standards of corporate disclosure which apply in the UK; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to achieve that objective where necessary. [195185]

Jane Kennedy: Matters of company law are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. In relation to tax matters, British overseas territories are responsible for their own domestic legislation, but the UK encourages them to adopt high standards of disclosure. In particular we encourage them to meet OECD standards of transparency and exchange of information by concluding tax information exchange agreements with the UK and other OECD countries.

Gift Aid: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many organisations in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley have received Gift Aid since its introduction. [194658]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not separately identify Gift Aid claims by types of organisations or by countries, regions, towns or local authorities of the UK.

Amounts of tax repaid to charities in the UK on donations under Gift Aid are published in table 10.1 on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm

In 2006-07, a total of £830 million was repaid to UK charities under Gift Aid.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the expenditure on national non-domestic rates by businesses in England as a percentage of *(a)* purchases, *(b)* turnover and *(c)* gross value added in each of the last three financial years, broken down by turnover band of businesses. [193246]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 18 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking for expenditure on national non-domestic rates by businesses in England, by turnover band, as percentages of turnover, purchases and gross value added (GVA). I am replying in her absence. (193246)

Our annual business inquiry (ABI), which covers most of the economy but excludes some sectors, such as agriculture, finance, local and central government, collects data on national non-domestic rates. The latest figures published for England alone relate to 2005. 2006 estimates will be available in June 2008.

The ABI is normally stratified using employment sizebands but the turnover sizebands used in the analysis are standard to the inquiry.

The attached table shows the data as per your request.

Further details of the coverage of the annual business inquiry are given at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi

The annual business inquiry is a sample survey so the figures are subject to sampling error. This is likely to be greater for the figures relating to small businesses than for businesses in the larger turnover bands.

Percentage

National non-domestic business rates in England as a percentage of:

	Total turnover			*Total purchases of goods and services*			*Gross value added (GVA)*		
Turnover sizeband (£)	2005	2004	2003	2005	2004	2003	2005	2004	2003
<£1 million	1.07	1.08	1.15	1.86	1.86	1.91	2.47	2.57	2.81
>£1 million<£10million	0.90	0.90	0.94	1.40	1.39	1.45	2.49	2.54	2.69
>£10million<£50million	0.76	0.73	0.75	1.13	1.09	1.10	2.29	2.27	2.36
>£50million<£00million	0.62	0.58	0.62	0.89	0.84	0.88	2,06	1.93	2.05
>£100million<£500million	0.45	0.43	0.48	0.63	0.63	0.67	1.53	1.47	1.81
>£500million	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.19	0.19	1.24	1.08	1.07
All	0.69	0.70	0.74	1.01	1.01	1.09	2.20	2.21	2.39

Non-domestic Rates: Revenue

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what income HM Treasury received from national non-domestic rates in each of the last five financial years. [193422]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

	National non-domestic rates (£ billion)
2002-03	18.5
2003-04	18.4
2004-05	18.7
2005-06	19.8
2006-07	21.0

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data security measures have been put in place for HM Revenue and Customs databases; and how much these measures *(a)* have cost and *(b)* are expected to cost. [187016]

Jane Kennedy: Data security measures are imbedded within everyday business processes. They are an integral part of the running of HMRC's databases and IT projects. For security reasons it would be inappropriate to comment on specific measures.

The associated costs are not separable from the overall running costs and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether each of HM Revenue and Customs, data guardians works full-time in that role. [194510]

Jane Kennedy: A data guardian has been appointed in each HMRC business unit. Data guardians work with business directors to help ensure the security of the data held in their respective areas.

Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the qualifying income level for tax credits is for *(a)* a single person earner household and *(b)* a single person earner household with (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three children. [195190]

Jane Kennedy: From April 2008, single working adults without children will benefit from working tax credit up to annual incomes of around £12,000.

Single working adults with children, will benefit from tax credits up to annual incomes of around £58,000 (£66,000 if there is at least one child who is less than a year old). Families claiming the child care element of the working tax credit could benefit from tax credits on higher incomes, depending on the level of child care costs.

Tax Evasion

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to introduce legislation to enable HM Revenue and Customs to overrule any commercial arrangement which it deems has been set up primarily to reduce or avoid taxes. [194243]

Jane Kennedy: Artificial avoidance schemes are unfair on the majority of taxpayers who do pay their fair share, and undermine the funding of public services. The Government are determined to adopt a robust approach in countering these.

To be effective, anti-avoidance legislation needs to clear and well targeted. As part of the Anti-Avoidance Simplification Review the Government are considering how more generic approaches to anti-avoidance legislation, including a principles-based approach and targeted anti-avoidance rules, can best meet aims of simplicity and revenue protection.

A general anti-avoidance rule, or "GAAR", is not currently under consideration but the Government keep this under review.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 509W, on Valuation Office: video recordings, if he will place in the Library copies of the internal staff videos *(a)* Message from CLG client September 2005 and *(b)* New Year Message-Tuesday 16 January 2007. [178659]

Jane Kennedy: I have placed in the Library a copy of the two internal videos recorded for Valuation Office Agency staff.

VAT

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses filed valued added tax returns in each of the last five years, broken down by size of company; and how many businesses filed value added tax returns online in each year since the service's inception, broken down by size of company; [194129]

(2) how many businesses have filed value added tax returns by e-mail using third party software in each year since the service's inception, broken down by size of company. [194130]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has received in VAT receipts from flood repair works carried out by insurance companies since the flooding of summer 2007 in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [194942]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in the tax credit office in each year since 2003; and at what cost. [194476]

Jane Kennedy: For information up to and including 2004-05 I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor the Paymaster General gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, columns 307-08W.

Information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

	Estimated hours (thousands-around)	*Cost (£ million-around)*
2005-06	100	2.5
2006-07	60	1.4

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Tax Credit Office have had with the police to discuss organised fraud by criminal gangs on tax credits. [194492]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is responsible for investigating organised fraud by criminal gangs on the tax credits system. The criminal investigation arm of HMRC maintains close working relationships with the police service and with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The aim is to build knowledge, share intelligence and ensure a co-ordinated response to organised criminal attacks, both on the tax credits system and any other area of the UK's tax and duty systems.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases were subject to criminal investigation in each quarter since April 2003. [194497]

Jane Kennedy: It would be inappropriate to provide information on the number of cases under investigation since 2003 as this could provide assistance to those engaged in criminal activity.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit fraud cases were prosecuted in each year since 2003 relating to *(a)* individuals and *(b)* criminal gangs. [194498]

Jane Kennedy: Prosecution figures for tax credits up to 2006-07 can be found at table 7 part 2 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report in the 2006-07 HMRC Accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm

Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available. A breakdown of these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people appealed against tax credit overpayments *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully in each year since 2003. [194500]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available.

Customers can contact HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to appeal if they think their tax credits award is wrong. Information concerning appeals can be found in the HMRC leaflet WTC/AP "How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award" which is available on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf

A decision to recover an overpayment does not carry the right of appeal. For information on the number of appeals received in each year since 2003, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) and my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 371-72W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Literacy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage adults to improve their reading skills. [174573]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to improving adult reading and literacy skills through the Skills for Life strategy and we have set challenging targets to eradicate illiteracy by 2020. In 2005-06 (the last year for which we have confirmed figures) 516,000 adults completed literacy courses and improved their skills.

The Department has been working with partners to promote reading through the Quick Reads initiative, which has put around half a million books in the hands of adult emergent readers since March 2006. We have also supported and promoted the BBC's RaW (Reading and Writing) campaign and the Reading Agency's work with libraries. The national Get On campaign continues to engage learners in literacy courses and we also support a wide range of other initiatives to encourage learners to address their literacy needs, such as Adult Learner's Week, Learning at Work Day, Family Learning Week and the 2008 National Year of Reading.

Computers

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of personal computers in the UK in *(a)* business and *(b)* domestic use in each of the last 10 years. [185513]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has made no estimates of the precise information requested. However, according to ONS surveys, the number of employees[1] using a computer for their work at least once per week in the 2004-06 period was 7.6 million in 2004; 8.2 million in 2005; and 8.5 million in 2006 (no previous figures exist), and the approximate number of households[2] with a home computer in each of the 10 years up to FY 2005-06 was as follows:

Sources:

[1] ONS e-commerce survey 2006 of UK businesses with 10 or more in employment.

[2] ONS Family Expenditure survey (prior to 2001-02 ONS Expenditure and Food Survey (from 2001-02)

FY	*Approximate number of households (million)*
1996-97	6.5
1997-98	7.3
1998-99	8.1
1999-00	9.6
2000-01	11.1
2001-02	12.0
2002-03	13.4
2003-04	14.3
2004-05	15.2
2005-06	16.0

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171301]

Mr. Lammy: Chapter 7 of the "Ministerial Code" sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172256]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is committed to achieving its workforce reduction target, shared with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, by the end of 2007/08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170231]

Bill Rammell: The Department's branding guidelines were published on the DIUS corporate website, www.dius.gov.uk/branding in January 2008. The guidelines are also published on the DIUS staff intranet site. The guidelines are intended to be viewed electronically and are best viewed this way but we will place a hard copy in the House Library.

The estimated cost to produce the DIUS branding guidelines is £20,000. At present there is no specific separate cost foreseen for complying with the guidelines, they simply represent the way materials and communications from the Department will be formatted online and in print. The effectiveness of the guidelines will be reviewed continuously to ensure they meet the departmental needs. This will be done on a project by project basis and will not involve additional cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171532]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created as a result of the June 2007 machinery of government changes and no employees have received end of year bonus payments. Information for staff from the former Department for Education and Skills will be provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Educational Institutions: First Aid

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the annual cost of providing first aid *(a)* facilities and *(b)* training at teaching establishments for which his Department is responsible; what the estimated cost was of such provision in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [180357]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on first aid facilities and training is not held centrally in this Department and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

ERASMUS

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many UK students studied abroad on ERASMUS programmes in each of the last 10 years. [190959]

Bill Rammell: The number of UK students who have studied abroad under the ERASMUS programme in each of the last 10 years is set out in the following table:

Academic year	*UK students participating in Erasmus*
1997/98	10,598
1998/99	10,005
1999/2000	10,064
2000/01	9,028
2001/02	8,475
2002/03	7,957
2003/04	7,547
2004/05	7,220
2005/06	7,135
2006/07	7,235

Early indications show that in this academic year, over 10,300 UK students will take part in Erasmus.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to encourage universities to make their facilities available to the wider community. [166478]

Bill Rammell: Higher Education institutions (HEIs), as independent bodies, are free to choose whether, and which, facilities are made available to the wider community. They already engage with the public in many ways, including providing access to sports facilities, museums, theatres and galleries; community volunteering by staff and students; and creating lifelong learning opportunities for a diverse body of learners. In 2005/06 over 70,000 people attended public lectures and over 1 million attended performance arts events organised by HEIs.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is working with institutions in London and across the country to maximise the valuable contribution that HEIsl facilities, staff and students will be making to the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics, as well as the event itself.

The Government recently announced an increase of funding for the HE innovation fund, to £150 million per year in 2010-11. That fund, run by HEFCE, supports HEIs to undertake a wide range of activities, including increasing their engagement with social, cultural and community organisations, as well as businesses, public services and the third sector. In addition, HEFCE, Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust have supported the establishment of Beacons of Public Engagement, as part of the Government's Science and Society programme, in which HEIs will further develop their work to build links with the public.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of students from state maintained schools the Government estimates will attend a Russell Group university in each year until 2012-13; [174346]

(2) how many and what proportion of students from state maintained schools the Government estimates will attend university in each year until 2012-13; [174347]

(3) how many and what proportion of students from state maintained schools the Government estimates will attend a 1994 Group university in each year until 2012-13. [174348]

Bill Rammell: The Government have a target to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. Increasing and widening participation in HE is a priority for social and economic reasons—forecasts show that, of the 12 million jobs expected to become vacant between 2004 and 2014, 6 million will be in occupations most likely to employ graduates.

The Government do not make projections of the number of students entering higher education at specific groups of institutions or from specific different sectors of the school system. However, since 1997 the proportion of students entering higher education from state schools has risen from 81.0 per cent. to 86.9 per cent. in 2005.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to widen participation in higher education. [174574]

Bill Rammell: Widening participation is at the heart of our policies both for economic reasons and to promote social justice. The proportion of UK domiciled, young, full-time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio-economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002/03 to 29.1 per cent. in 2005/06.

In July, we announced further reforms to student finance. These were:

(a) an increase in the threshold so that more students qualify for full and partial maintenance grants;

(b) more flexibility into the repayment system, with the offer of a five-year repayment holiday; and

(c) introduction of a guaranteed level of support for students in receipt of education maintenance allowances from 2008 who go on to higher education.

There is no reason for anyone to be deterred from higher education (HE) because of the costs.

In May this year, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published guidance to Aimhigher partnerships and universities on how to target their interventions more effectively on young people from lower socio-economic groups. I announced recently that Aimhigher, which raises the attainment levels of young people and their aspirations towards higher education, will continue for another three years.

In October, DIUS and DCSF launched a joint prospectus on how universities could sponsor trusts or academies. Such partnerships, alongside Aimhigher partnerships, can bring together universities, colleges and schools to identify and nurture talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who would benefit from participation in HE.

This year, we also launched nine Excellence Hubs. These are higher education-led outreach centres providing aspiration raising activities for gifted and talented learners. Hubs provide at least 10 per cent. of places free to gifted and talented learners from poorer backgrounds.

In addition, higher education institutions run their own outreach activities, funded for example from tuition fee income under the terms of their access agreements with the Office for Fair Access, or from the widening participation allocation provided by HEFCE.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposal to withdraw Higher Education Funding Council for England funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [178120]

Bill Rammell: As we made clear when we announced it in September, our policy is not to "withdraw" funding for students studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications. It is to redeploy over three years around 30 per cent. of the funding that is available for such students and to redeploy it to fund students without such prior qualifications. The policy will therefore promote both our objective of widening access to higher education and our progress towards the target that 40 per cent. of the working age population should have an HE qualification by 2020. It will enable us to support 20,000 more first-time or progressing students (in full-time equivalent terms) than would otherwise be possible, and create incentives for universities to reach out to the six million adults who currently have an A-level or equivalent qualification, but no HE experience.

Qualifications: Higher Education: Fraud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for innovation, Universities and Skills what powers he has to take steps against those offering bogus degrees; whether any investigations are currently on-going; how many institutions have been closed as a result of such investigations in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [177632]

Bill Rammell: The statutory responsibility to take investigations and enforcement actions rests with local authorities and their trading standards officers. It is an offence for a UK-based body to offer what could be taken to be UK degrees unless that body is recognised. In addition, local authorities can prosecute UK-based bodies illegally using the protected word "university" in the UK under Business Names regulations. The Trade Descriptions Act and misleading advertising regulations can also be employed in this context. However, the Department is actively assisting the Home Office, the Border and Immigration Agency and local authorities with a number of on-going investigations. Over the last five years, my Department (and its predecessors) has directly assisted local authorities in successful enforcement against 17 offending bodies with closure of 10 and prosecution of a further three. In addition, and since 1 January 2005, 256 colleges on the Department's Register of Education and Training Providers have been investigated by the Borders and Immigration Agency. Of these, 124 have been found to be in breach of the immigration rules, and therefore removed from the Register.

Student Wastage

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of UK-domiciled, full-time first degree students at each higher education institution neither obtained an award nor transferred to another institution in each year since 2003. [192730]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution is taken from table T5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education and has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Information on the actual number of students who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution is not published.

This information was published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for the 2005/06 academic year will become available in May of this year. The information is also available at the following website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/pi/home.htm

The percentage of students in England not completing their course has fallen to its lowest since the non-completion performance indicator was introduced, which already starts from a baseline which is low by international standards.

According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for Type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries (the UK ranks fifth out of 23 countries who report data in this area).

Students: Death

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many student fatalities there have been on university campuses in each of the last five years, broken down by cause of death. [190865]

Bill Rammell: The information is not held centrally.

Students: Loans

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing interest on student loans. [172394]

Bill Rammell: Abolishing interest on new student loans—to English domiciled students in the UK and EU students studying in England—would increase the long-term resource cost from around 27 per cent. of the face value of the loans to 39 per cent. That means that every £100 lent to students, would cost the taxpayer £12 more, resulting in extra expenditure of around £700 million per year for maintenance and fee loans, once fee loans are in steady state. The estimated cost of abolishing interest for loans that have already been issued is £2.0 billion. These costs are due to the extra interest rate subsidy that would be incurred under a zero interest rate. The terms of student loans are already generous with interest pegged to the rate of inflation so that, in real terms, borrowers repay no more than they borrowed. Abolishing interest would substantially increase the costs to Government and to the taxpayer of subsidising these loans and means that students would repay less in real terms than they had borrowed.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many cases of identity fraud in applications for student loans were recorded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [192343]

Bill Rammell: The responsibility for confirming the identity of applicants for student support in England rests with local authorities and the number of cases of identity fraud is not centrally held at present. From 2009/10 the SLC will assess all new applications for student support, and records will be held centrally.

Where local authorities suspect fraud at the application stage, they will not process the application until they are completely satisfied with the documentary evidence. Where payments have been made, the local authorities may prosecute the students, or report the matter to the police for prosecution and recover any overpayments.

Last year, departmental officials—in conjunction with the Student Loans Company and local authorities—investigated 15 cases of suspected identity fraud, including some involving the use of stolen birth certificates to create false identities, which resulted in successful prosecutions.

The NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service Study, commissioned by the Department last year, estimated the identity fraud rate for student support was around 0.6 per cent. of applications in 2005-06. We are working to reduce it further, but it is appreciably lower than other similar systems which involve payments.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the viability of providing statements and other information on student loans to students and graduates on the internet. [193773]

Bill Rammell: Students are currently able to access a range of student support information online. This includes information, advice and guidance on the support available and how to apply, the status of their applications, details of decisions on loans, grants and other payments and access to copies of correspondence sent. Customers can also change address and bank account details online, subject to verification steps.

Following the publication of the report of end to end review of student finance delivery on 31 January 2006, I announced in a statement to the House on 3 July 2006, our plans to transform the student finance service. Key to this transformation is providing a modern, seamless, predominantly online service.

The new service for students will deliver:

Improved, fully online application process

Enhanced online information, advice and guidance

Full online self service functionality

Graduates will also benefit from improvements, through a new repayment portal that will provide better information, advice and guidance, the facility to make additional repayments online and a repayment calculator that allows customers to calculate their current loan balance at any point during the tax year.

There are currently no plans to provide online statements but this functionality may be considered as part of future enhancements to the service.

These improvements will be phased in over three years from September 2008.

Universities: Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many universities were twinned with a business champion in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [193763]

Bill Rammell: Information is not held centrally on how many universities might reasonably be said to be twinned with a business champion. However, links with business and other community partners are extensive across the higher education sector as a whole.

The latest 'Higher Education—Business and Community Interaction' survey showed that, overall, HE institutions' income from these sources rose by 8 per cent. over the period 2004-05 to 2005-06. Higher education and businesses collaborate on research, consultancy, continuing professional development, and knowledge transfer.

Increasingly, the demands of global competition require HE institutions to develop a range of links with business, and some are choosing to become explicitly 'business-facing'. Higher education's interaction with business generates and exchanges knowledge and so helps drive innovation in goods and services.

We want to help create the conditions to promote increasingly beneficial collaborations with business, encouraging all HEIs to develop this as one of their strengths in ways consistent with their chosen missions.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of employers who participated in Train to Gain were not defined as hard to reach. [174363]

Mr. Lammy: During the first 16 months of the Train to Gain operation, 52,730 employers participated in Train to Gain by working with a skills broker on an organisation needs analysis and agreeing what action to take forward as a result. 72 per cent. of those employers were defined as hard to reach, i.e. not accredited as an Investor in People and with no recorded investment at a publicly funded training provider.

Vocational Training: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what performance targets have been set for the Learning and Skills Council's National Employer Service. [174364]

Mr. Lammy: The National Employer Service (NES) is a division within Learning and Skills Council that exists to support national multi-site private sector employers with more than 5,000 UK employees. NES helps employers to build their understanding of the public skills system so that it works for them. The NES currently has contracts with around 80 large employers and in 2007/08, the NES is expected to help engage 42,000 learners through Train to Gain and an average of 62,000 apprenticeships in learning. This is under review as we expand the NES's scope to engage with a greater number of large employers as set out in the recent Plan for Growth.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely cost to universities and colleges of *(a)* becoming licensed to sponsor migrants and *(b)* issuing certificates of sponsorship to migrants. [172977]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The proposed fee levels for sponsorship registration and for issuing a certificate of sponsorship to migrants will be set out in regulations before Parliament in the new year, including appropriate impact assessments to support our proposals.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Baluchistan: Capital Punishment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian authorities on the death sentence handed down to Mr. Yaqub Mehrnehad by the authorities in Baluchistan; and if he will make a statement. [191976]

David Miliband: The EU presidency, on behalf of all EU member states, raised Mr. Mehrnehad's sentence with the Iranian authorities on 4 March. The EU called on Iran to commute Mr. Mehrnehad's sentence, to guarantee the security of all human rights defenders, and to ensure that they are given fair trials in accordance with international standards.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192513]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) has records from 2004 onwards of appeals taken to the Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB). CSAB records show a total of eight appeals from home civil servants in the FCO from 1997 to 2004.

	Number
April 1997-March 1998	0
April 1998-March 1999	1
April 1999-March 2000	0
April 2000-March 2001	2
April 2001-March 2002	4
April 2002-March 2003	1
April 2003-March 2004	0

Details of the outcome in each case are no longer available.

From 2004 to March 2007, four appeals were lodged by FCO home civil servants to the CSAB:

	Number
April 2004-March 2005	1
April 2005-March 2006	2
April 2006-March 2007	1

Three of the appeals concerned dismissal on misconduct grounds. One was settled following conciliation. The other two were not upheld. The fourth appeal concerned unfair dismissal and was not upheld.

The Diplomatic Service Appeal Board considers appeals from Diplomatic Service officers against dismissal. In 2007 two such appeals were considered. One was upheld and the other was not upheld.

Due to the small number of cases involved, further requested details have not been provided to avoid identification of individuals.

Colombia: Borders

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation along Colombia's border with Ecuador and Venezuela; and what representations have been made to all three governments on the recent escalation in regional tension. [192244]

David Miliband: Following the events of 1 March, in separate discussions with Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela and other international partners, we expressed our concern about the growing tension and deployment of armed forces along Colombia's borders and encouraged all parties to show restraint. We also fully supported the European Union declaration of 5 March, which said:

> "The European Union is concerned about the growing tension and the deployment of armed forces between Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia. It urges all parties involved to show restraint and to avoid any further escalation of the current situation. The European Union encourages all countries involved to seek, through dialogue, a political solution."

We welcome the outcome of the Rio Group summit in Santa Domingo on 7 March, which has diffused tensions between the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Together with other members of the Rio Group, they reiterated a commitment to peaceful co-operation in the region. We also welcome the start of a process to help resolve outstanding issues related to the border incident, through the Organisation of American States (OAS), including the commission which reported to OAS Foreign Ministers on 17 March.

Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedure is in place to appeal against decisions of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals. [193794]

Meg Munn: The committee's role is to provide agreed interdepartmental advice to the Sovereign, so the question of an appeal does not arise.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191777]

Meg Munn: The Government are committed to safety online for all users, including children. The Central Office for Information is preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government web estate and we will implement what they mandate.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether passports and immigration documents for the personnel and aircraft involved in the rendition of two suspects through Diego Garcia in 2002 were presented to British Indian Ocean Territory imports and exports control officers on Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [191042]

David Miliband: Procedures on Diego Garcia dictate that all passport and immigration details of passengers disembarking are presented to Customs and Immigration officials on the island. The US authorities have confirmed that the two individuals rendered through Diego Garcia in 2002 did not disembark. Consequently, their details would not have been presented or recorded.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have received representations from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the alleged use of Diego Garcia by the United States for the purposes of rendition; and if he will make a statement. [192464]

David Miliband: On 5 March my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, spoke to Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, in the margins of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Minister encouraged Mr. Nowak to provide the Government with any evidence he may have regarding allegations that detainees had been held on Diego Garcia between 2002 and 2003.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials from his Department have held discussions with their EU counterparts on revising the 6 June 2006 E3+3 proposals to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [191151]

David Miliband: I held discussions with my E3+3 colleagues on 22 January where we agreed that following the vote on another sanctions resolution at the UN we would look at ways to present the 2006 offer once again to Iran, to make it clear that the offer was generous, wide-ranging and a very good deal for Iran. In our joint statement on 3 March, after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1803, we reconfirmed the proposals we presented to Iran in June 2006 and said that we were prepared to develop them further. Discussions on this will now be taken forward.

Iran: Inspections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether detailed criteria have been agreed that would trigger the inspection of cargoes to and from Iran as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008) or whether this is a matter for the judgment of individual states. [192789]

David Miliband: UN Security Council resolution 1803 (2008) requires states to inspect the cargoes to and from Iran, of aircraft and vessels, at their airports and seaports, owned or operated by Iran Air Cargo and Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line, where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the aircraft or vessel is transporting embargoed goods. It is up to states to decide when they believe the criteria is met.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the further concrete measures on exploring an overall strategy for resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiation, referred to in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008), are expected to be formally presented to Iran as a revised version of the June 2006 proposals; and if he will make a statement. [192791]

David Miliband: My E3+3 colleagues and I agreed on 22 January that following the vote on another sanctions resolution at the UN, we would explore ways to present the 2006 offer again to Iran, to make it clear that the offer was still on the table. It is generous, wide-ranging and a very good deal for Iran. In the E3+3 statement on 3 March, after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1803, we reconfirmed the proposals we presented to Iran in June 2006 and said that we were prepared to develop them further. Work on this is now under way with our E3+3 partners.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for a meeting between representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany and Iranian nuclear negotiators to discuss further concrete measures on exploring an overall strategy of resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiation, as referred to in UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008). [192792]

David Miliband: There are no such meetings scheduled at present. We have been clear with Iran that our offer of dialogue remains open and that Javier Solana will continue to make himself available for a meeting, on behalf of the E3+3, at any time when Iran is ready to discuss that offer and to comply with its international obligations.

Iraq Neighbour Conference

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1358W, on the Iraq Neighbour Conference, what progress has been made in the working groups on *(a)* energy, *(b)* security and *(c)* refugees; and when each of these groups last met. [191946]

David Miliband: The working groups have each met once: the energy working group on 28 to 29 June 2007; the refugees working group on 26 July 2007 and the security working group on 8-9 August 2007. For details of these meetings, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1054-55W.

Iraq: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 50W, on Iraq: foreign relations, what progress has been made in the establishment of a permanent UN secretariat in support of regional co-operation; and what the UK role within this secretariat is. [192240]

David Miliband: The Iraq Neighbours Conference in Istanbul on 4 November 2007 agreed that the Iraqi Government—with UN support—would form an ad-hoc support mechanism for the expanded neighbours process, to be based in Baghdad.

Terms of reference for the support mechanism were jointly circulated to all expanded neighbours participants by the Government of Iraq and the UN in December 2007 and have since been adopted. The support mechanism has now been formed within the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the UN dedicating staff within its mission to provide assistance. The UK has no formal role within the mechanism.

Israel: Human Rights

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2024, on Israel: human rights, what criteria are used in determining whether Israel's actions are compliant with human rights provisions in EU trade agreements. [193198]

Dr. Howells: There are no formal criteria used by the EU Commission. The Commission draws on its own observers on the ground, non-governmental organisations, and member states' posts to determine the compliance of Israel's actions in accordance with Article 2 and in the context of Article 76 of the EU/Israel Association Agreement.

I share, and frequently raise, many of my hon. Friend's concerns over Israeli actions. However, on balance, I support the Commission's assessment that Israel is not in breach of the terms of the agreement. As stressed in the response I gave to my hon. Friend on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2024W, I remain strongly of the opinion that active engagement with Israel through the EU provides a valuable forum through which to continue to raise human rights concerns. In 2007 the EU-Israel human rights working group, established under the framework of the Association Agreement, provided the opportunity to discuss: inter alia minorities; respect for human rights including respect for religious freedom and belief; Israeli settlement expansion; administrative detention including individual cases; international humanitarian law; as well as questions related to the UN Human Rights Council; and thereby established a closer bilateral dialogue on these issues.

We look forward to building on this dialogue at the next working group session on 15 April 2008.

Latin America: Foreign Relations

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the governments of Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia on the situation in their border areas. [193721]

Dr. Howells: We have had contacts with representatives of the Ecuadorian, Colombian and Venezuelan governments since the events of 1 March. In these discussions, we have expressed our concern about the tension and deployment of armed forces along the Colombian border. We have urged all parties to show restraint, to avoid any further escalation of the situation, and to seek, through dialogue, a political solution.

We welcome the outcome of the meeting of the Rio Group summit in Santa Domingo on 7 March, which has diffused tensions between the governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, who with other members of the Rio Group reiterated a commitment to peaceful co-operation in the region. We also welcome the initiation of a process through the Organisation of American States (OAS), including the commission which reported to OAS Foreign Ministers on 17 March.

Rendition

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to present to the US Administration the list of flights of concern in relation to the alleged rendition of suspects by the United States through UK territory, waters or airspace; and if he will make a statement. [191153]

David Miliband: Officials in my Department are currently compiling a list of all the flights where we have been alerted to concerns regarding rendition through the UK or our Overseas Territories. Once this is ready we will be sending this list to the US Government and seeking their assurance that none of these flights were used for rendition purposes. Officials are currently working through the flights where concern has been raised and we are consulting with other relevant Government Departments, Overseas Posts and non-governmental organisations. The list will be presented to the US Government as soon as is consistent with a thorough search of our records.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many flights of concern have been identified in relation to the alleged rendition of suspects by the United States through UK territory, waters or airspace; and if he will make a statement. [191154]

David Miliband: Officials in my Department are currently compiling a list of all the flights where we have been alerted to concerns regarding rendition through the UK or our Overseas Territories. Once this is ready we will be sending this list to the US Government and seeking their specific assurance that none of these flights were used for rendition purposes. I have also undertaken to publish the list in Parliament.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what safeguards there are to prevent future use of British territory for US extraordinary rendition flights. [193415]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, that there has long been a regular exchange with the US authorities, in which we have set out that:

> we expect the US to seek permission to render detainees via UK territory and airspace, including our Overseas Territories;
>
> we will grant that permission only if we are satisfied that the rendition would accord with UK law and our international obligations; and
>
> we are fully aware of our obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture.

Following the new information provided by the US regarding the two rendition flights via Diego Garcia, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the US Secretary of State, Dr. Rice, on 20 February. She underlined the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, UK airspace or our Overseas Territories without express British Government permission.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 17 March to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea. [194456]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Our consul from the British Deputy high commission in Lagos travelled to Malabo and visited Mr. Mann in prison on 12 February. Consular officials aim to visit Mr. Mann again soon, when they will discuss Mr. Mann's welfare with the authorities in Equatorial Guinea. We will continue to visit Mr. Mann in prison in line with our consular policy.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing full operational capability for the UN-African Union force in Darfur; and what assessment he has made of the current capacity of the force to offer protection to civilians in the area. [192246]

David Miliband: The UN-African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) currently has approximately 10,500 personnel. We understand the Egyptian and Ethiopian battalions, and supporting units, will deploy by the end of May, taking UNAMID's strength up to 16,000. Full operational capability will be achieved when the force commander assesses he has sufficient troops and equipment at his disposal to conduct fully all the tasks described in the concept of operations.

UNAMID is starting to improve security with increased patrols, including firewood patrols that allow internally displaced persons to gather fuel. Delays in generating capabilities and difficulties in deploying the mission, including lack of co-operation from the Government of Sudan, have impeded UNAMID's capacity to widen their area of influence. We are pressing the Government of Sudan and rebel groups to allow UNAMID full access and freedom of movement to improve the protection of civilians.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of an approach by the Ugandan government to the UN Security Council to suspend the International Criminal Court warrants for the arrest of leading members of the Lord's Resistance Army. [193723]

Meg Munn: We have received no reports that the Ugandan government has approached the UN Security Council to request suspension of the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrants against the leading members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We note that in the peace agreement, the LRA leadership has asked the Ugandan government to request a deferral of the ICC warrants and establish national mechanisms to try those alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes as an alternative to the ICC. We believe that justice is an essential part of a sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account. It is up to the Ugandan government to convince the ICC that any new national mechanisms are in line with the Rome Statute and are sufficient to allow the ICC to lift the warrants issued for the arrest of LRA leaders.

Yugoslavia: War Crimes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress of the search for *(a)* Radovan Karadzic and *(b)* Ratko Mladic in connection with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. [191983]

David Miliband: The chief responsibility for the detention and arrest of fugitive indictees Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic rests with the governments of Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their progress in this regard is assessed by the Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The UK has given consistent support, both practical and political, to the work of ICTY. We remain committed to seeing all four outstanding ICTY indictees, including Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, arrested and brought to trial before the tribunal. The need for full co-operation with ICTY is a message we constantly deliver in the region, particularly to the authorities in Serbia who have a key role to play in this regard.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Attorney-General

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General when the Attorney-General's Office intends to publish the results of its consultation on the role of the Attorney-General. [193936]

The Solicitor-General: The Government are considering all responses to the consultation and will publish their conclusions in due course.

Corruption

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General how many requests the Attorney-General has received from the Serious Fraud Office for consent on overseas corruption cases in each of the last five years. [193924]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General has received one such request for consent from the Serious Fraud Office for an overseas corruption case during 2007 in the last five years.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General on how many overseas corruption cases being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office the Attorney-General has *(a)* received briefings and *(b)* given advice. [193934]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(a) The Attorney-General regularly receives briefings from the Director of the Serious Fraud Office on overseas corruption cases under investigation. The Director also regularly attends meetings with the Attorney-General where all overseas corruption cases are discussed, including those which may require the Attorney General's consent before prosecution.

(b) The Attorney-General has not given advice to the Director in any case.

NatWest: Enron

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Solicitor-General what the reasons were for the decision not to prosecute the NatWest Three in the UK. [195188]

The Solicitor-General: In serious fraud cases it is common for allegedly criminal conduct to occur in more than one country. In such cases inevitably proceedings are commenced in one country rather than the other. In this case, investigations had begun in the USA and there had been no complaint by anyone in this country.

When the Serious Fraud Office came to consider whether to investigate, it decided not to do so because the main evidence was in the USA (the co-conspirators); the conspiracy took place there; the alleged fraud could not have occurred without the complicity of the Enron executives; the American case was advanced and it was in the overall interests of justice for it to be dealt with by one court.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a rebalancing of responsibility between ISAF and the Afghan national security forces in respect of leadership and primacy in the security field is planned during the course of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [194182]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The long-term goal of the NATO-led ISAF mission is to hand over responsibility for security of the country to the Government of Afghanistan and Afghan security forces.

There are plans to rebalance responsibility for the provision of security between ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces during the course of 2008; however, I am withholding the details of these plans as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his French counterpart on increasing France's military deployment to Afghanistan. [194195]

Des Browne: The forthcoming UK/France summit on 27 March, offers the next opportunity for discussion of Afghanistan, as well as other bilateral issues.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for an international conference to review progress in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact; and if he will make a statement. [194181]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The forthcoming Paris conference in June is likely to include opportunities to review progress in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and reaffirm international and Afghan Government commitment to the compact.

Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to place in the Library responses to the Defence Internal Brief of 11 March 2008—Views invited for the Service Personnel Command Paper—either in full or redacted to protect individuals' confidentiality. [194447]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* It is our intention to publish a summary of all the contributions received during the consultation process alongside the Service Personnel Command Paper itself.

Armed Forces: Colchester

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation units in (i) Colchester and (ii) Aldershot are in each standard for condition grade. [190641]

Derek Twigg: Where Service Families Accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain is assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC), a measure of the physical condition of a property. Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC), an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as location and proximity to amenities.

The number and percentage of accommodation at Colchester and Aldershot at each SfC or GfC is as follows:

		Colchester		*Aldershot*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
SFA	S1fC	657	59	1,103	66
	S2fC	434	39	571	34
	S3fC	22	2	5	<0
	S4fC	0	0	0	0
SLA	Grade 1	1,767	65	421	15
	Grade 2	0	0	0	0
	Grade 3	0	0	0	0
	Grade 4	881	35	2,357	85

Significant work is taking place to improve SLA at Aldershot and Colchester. Aldershot Garrison is included as part of Project Allenby Connaught which will improve living conditions for thousands of soldiers around the Salisbury Plain Training Area and Aldershot. This will include the delivery of 2,600 new or improved SLA bed-spaces to G1fC at Aldershot by 2015.

In Colchester, some 811 G1fC SLA bed-spaces will be delivered by June this year with plans to upgrade some 142 SFA properties to S1fC by 2011.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the Royal British Legion on the operation of the military covenant; what response he has made; and if he will make a statement. [195100]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has held regular discussions with the Royal British Legion (RBL) since the launch of its "Honour the Covenant" campaign in September 2007, covering a wide range of issues affecting the nation's responsibilities to its armed forces. Since 1997, the RBL accepts the Government have made a number of improvements but would like to see more done. The Government have taken a number of important steps to ensure that the nation meets its responsibilities towards its armed forces, veterans and their families, including improvements to compensation, healthcare, accommodation, and welfare support. The forthcoming Cross-Government Command Paper will review the current position and set out such further improvements as may be appropriate. The RBL is a member of the External Reference Group for the Command Paper.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were serving in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* the United Kingdom and *(d)* elsewhere at the latest date for which figures are available. [194889]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: The following table shows the number of UK Service personnel deployed on operations by location at 10 March 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	13,460
of which:	
Afghanistan	7,600
Iraq	3,800
At Sea	710
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	260
Oman	190
Kosovo	130
Bahrain	70
Bosnia	10
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia. Figures for the number of UK regular forces stationed in locations worldwide can be found in Tri-Service Publication 10 (TSP10) copies of which are available in the Library of the House; the latest available data are at 1 April 2007 and can also be found at: http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/tsp10/tsp10execsum.html

Armed Forces: European Union

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that British armed forces will not come under the command of *(a)* the European Union and *(b)* other European states' armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [194969]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The decision to launch any EU military operation can be taken only by unanimity among member states. Whether to contribute British forces to any operation is a voluntary decision for the UK Government to take case by case.

Any British forces contributing to an EU operation are likely, depending on the arrangements made for it, to come under the operational control of the Military Operation Commander, who may be a national of any EU member state and who would be chosen by the Council of Ministers of the European Union acting unanimously. The Lisbon Treaty will not change this position.

In the same way, British forces contributing to a NATO operation are placed under the operational control of the NATO Military Operation Commander.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties in England and Wales were identified as awaiting disposal or demolition in each year since 2002; and how much rent was paid to Annington Homes for those properties in each year. [168870]

Derek Twigg: The number of service family accommodation properties in England and Wales that have been identified for disposal or demolition, together with the rent paid for them to Annington Homes Ltd (AHL), in each year since 2002 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Non-AHL disposals*	*AHL disposal*	*Demolition*	*Rent paid to AHL (£ million)*
2002-03	117	1,645	9	5.8
2003-04	49	533	35	1.9
2004-05	336	416	9	1.5
2005-06	110	307	9	1.1
2006-07	188	460	9	1.6
2007-08	14	870	9	3.0

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2550W, on armed forces: housing, what proportion of single living accommodation in each of the named countries is used only during operational deployment. [194546]

Derek Twigg: With the exception of the 6,119 single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces in the Falkland and Ascension Islands that are all used as accommodation for Service personnel on operational deployment, the Department does not count bed-spaces used in operational theatre and therefore were not included in my answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2550W.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional funding has been allocated in 2008 to improve military personnel accommodation in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency. [194682]

Derek Twigg: No additional funding has been allocated for the improvement of Service living accommodation in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency.

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the evaluation of the post-operational stress management pilot will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [185986]

Derek Twigg: There is no post-operational stress management pilot currently being undertaken.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* British service members and *(b)* non-British service members, of each nationality, he expects to participate in Exercise Druid's Dance; and (i) when and (ii) where the exercise is expected to take place; [193873]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of Exercise Druid's Dance; and from which budgets these costs will be met. [193894]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Exercise Druid's Dance is the generic name given to each of a series of eight All Arms Battle Group collective training exercises which take place annually on the Salisbury plain training area.

The number of military personnel involved per exercise will vary depending on the Army's force generation requirements. Information on the number of British service members and non-British service members, broken down by nationality, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I understand that the hon. Member is interested in one particular Druid's Dance exercise, which is due to take place between 28 April and 18 May this year and will serve a number of purposes including preparation for the contingency role of the European Union Battlegroup; 490 British and 70 Foreign and Commonwealth members of the British Army will be participating in this exercise.

It is estimated that the cost of this specific exercise will be £1,770,239, of which, £1,752,628 is met from the Land Forces Top Level Budget and £17,611 is met from the Defence Equipment and Support Top Level Budget.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combined Territorial Army and Regular Army exercises took place in each year since 1997. [194431]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Territorial Army personnel routinely take part in Regular Army exercises in order to practice for their operational role and prepare for mobilisation. Closer integration between the Regular Army and TA is actively encouraged and an official pairing mechanism has been established between Regular and TA units to reinforce this. The specific information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Challenger 2 main battle tanks are in service. [193870]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 345 Challenger 2 main battle tanks currently in service.

AWE Aldermaston: Protest

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the Aldermaston Easter protest. [194882]

Des Browne: The MOD recognises the democratic right of individuals to participate in lawful and peaceful protest activities.

Catering: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on messing and food allowance, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [173724]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total resource costs against this resource account code (RAC) are set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Messing and food allowance (£ million)*
2000-01	4.5
2001-02	4.6
2002-03	5.0
2003-04	4.3
2004-05	4.2
2005-06	5.4
2006-07	n/a

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non cash costs attributed to the expenditure items which would result in the near cash expenditure being different from the resource expenditure.

The expenditure in 2006-07 is not available as a geographic allowance as it is currently included within the statistics, which in previous financial years was mapped to a different RAC. This is being reviewed.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the receipts received on asset sales for disposed estates was kept by the Exchequer in each financial year since 2001. [190642]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence agrees targets for receipts in respect of the disposal of land and buildings with HM Treasury as part of the periodic spending reviews. Spending budgets in each financial year are agreed and set accordingly.

From 2001 to 2007 all receipts, amounting to some £1.5 billion, deriving from the sale of land and buildings by MOD have been retained within the Defence budget.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Other than the cases already in the public domain, as a result of the recent data loss, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Manpower

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on personnel in each financial year since 2000-01. [192142]

Derek Twigg: The amount of resource (in cash terms) consumed as a proportion of the total yearly near cash outturn of the MOD since 2001-02 is set out in the following table. A proportion of personnel costs (for example some operational allowances) are recovered from the Treasury Reserve.

Financial year	*MOD personnel expenditure as percentage of departmental near cash outturn*
2001-02	38
2002-03	36
2003-04	38
2004-05	35
2005-06	37
2006-07	36

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [193000]

Derek Twigg: For the purpose of the answer, residential properties are considered to be Single Living Accommodation (SLA) and Service Families Accommodation (SFA). Although we do not centrally record that accommodation which is vacant, we do record that which is void (not in use for its intended purpose). Void stock includes accommodation being held for planned moves of Service Units, or awaiting planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

It is not possible to identify from the information centrally held all accommodation that has been void for longer than three, six and 12 months respectively.

However, I can confirm that out of a total worldwide stock of 165,000 SLA bed-spaces and 71,000 SFA properties, the following were void at March 2007 and March 2008.

As at March	*SLA (bed spaces)*	*SFA (properties)*
2007	46,325	13,336
2008	34,293	12,240

In addition, I can confirm that out of the 49,000 SFA in Great Britain, the following properties have been void for the following periods:

Period	*Number of properties*
Between three months and six months	1,631
Between six months and 12 months	1,975
Over 12 months	2,913

The Department recognises that the number of voids is unacceptably high and work is in hand to reduce it. The progress we are making is demonstrated by the reduction in void SLA and SFA between March 2007 and March 2008.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the European Union military staff has in certifying EU battlegroups. [193872]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The certification of European Union (EU) battlegroups is a national responsibility of the contributing member states, who undertake this certification according to agreed procedures. The EU military staff registers all certification information provided by member states and keeps the EU Military Committee informed of the certification process.

EU Defence Policy: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is obliged to notify the European Union military staff of exercise rehearsal programmes for EU battlegroups. [193871]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: European Union (EU) member states contributing to EU battlegroups are required to notify the EU military staff of the details of the battlegroup certification exercise and other significant training events and exercises.

Gordon Foxley

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to recover money from Gordon Foxley. [194152]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

Following Mr. Gordon Foxley's conviction on 3 November 1993 of 12 counts of corruption, a confiscation order was made against him in the sum of £1,503,901.80.

In May 1994, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) being the victim of the offences began civil proceedings against Mr. Foxley, his family members, the foreign arms companies and a company with which Mr. Foxley was connected.

In February 1996, summary judgment was granted in favour of the MOD as against Mr. Foxley and his son, Paul Foxley, and both were made bankrupt. Between July 1996 and September 1997, the MOD settled their claims against the foreign arms companies.

Notwithstanding Mr. Foxley's successful application to strike out Crown Prosecution Service and MOD proceedings to enforce the confiscation and bankruptcy orders, substantial recoveries have been made in respect of Mr. Foxley's offending. The settlements reached with the foreign arms companies amounted to £3,390,371. In addition, other sums of money have been recovered from various Foxley family sources amounting to about £800,000.00. This sum includes Mr. Foxley's share in the matrimonial home.

HMS Southampton: Deployment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future deployment of *(a)* HMS Southampton and *(b)* HMS Exeter; and if he will make a statement. [194221]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2557, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Iraq: Ammunition

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of ammunition supplies for British forces in *(a)* Basra and *(b)* Helmand province. [193361]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ammunition stocks for British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are assessed on a weekly basis and supplies are currently sufficient to meet the requirements in both theatres.

Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiffs were in service in southern Iraq in each year since 2003. [193365]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As the Prime Minister announced in his statement to the House on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24, the Ministry of Defence has ordered a further 140 Mastiff patrol vehicles in addition to the 100 previously bought and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. I am withholding precise details of the numbers deployed to Iraq as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces who *(a)* are awaiting deployment and *(b)* have been deployed to active service have not been supplied with the Mk 6a ballistic helmet; and if he will make a statement. [191468]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 March 2008]*: Members of the UK armed forces are routinely issued with Mk 6A helmets prior to deployment to an operational theatre where the threat level requires enhanced ballistic protection: this includes both Iraq and Afghanistan. Sufficient additional stocks of Mk 6A helmets also exist in these operational theatres so that any individuals who have not previously been issued with this helmet can receive one on arrival.

Our records do not show any instances where personnel were not supplied with the Mk 6A helmet when the operational circumstances required that they should have received one.

ISAF: Command and Control

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest unclassified International Security Assistance Force command and control structure. [193879]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no unclassified version of the International Security Assistance Force command and control structure; however an overview of the ISAF command structure, including the regional commands, is available on the ISAF website at:

http://www.nato.int/isaf/structure/Comstruc/index.html

National Recognition Study

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library responses to the National Recognition Study either in full or redacted to protect individuals' confidentiality. [194448]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: The report on the National Recognition Study is still being prepared for submission to the Prime Minister. Any decision on publication of the report will be taken thereafter.

Royal Regiment of Scotland: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow, *(b)* outflow and *(c)* voluntary outflow rate is of each battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [193881]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No information is held on Intake, Outflow and Voluntary Outflow information for each battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The following figures are for the Scottish Division as a whole.

The following table shows the rates of Other Ranks inflow, outflow and the Voluntary Outflow from the Scottish Division of the Infantry during 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007. The Total Trained Regular Army Other Ranks Voluntary Outflow rate for the same period is 6.8 per cent.

Scottish Division	*Financial Year 2006-07*[1] *(percentage)*
intake	11.9
Outflow	17.8
Voluntary Outflow Rate	5.5

Notes:

1. The Financial Year 2006-07 is for an 11 month period from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007 due to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration system.
2. Intake, outflow and voluntary outflow rates are calculated based on the number of intakes and exits as a percentage of the average trained strength of all other ranks during the period.
3. The intake figures include re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

Officers are only allocated to a Regiment on Completion of their Commissioning Course at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).

Wind Power: Planning

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the quality and timeliness of his Department's input to the planning process for wind farm applications. [187691]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) already seeks to provide an effective and responsive service to wind farm developers, including a pre-planning consultation service to reduce ongoing costs. We keep our processes under regular review to ensure that we provide a high quality service to those who consult us and are currently reviewing our consultation processes and the level of resources available. These will include additional radar experts and increased manpower in other areas.

We are also considering how best to increase the use of information technology to make it easier for wind farm developers to consult the MOD.

MOD fully supports the Government's renewable energy targets and will continue to work with other Government Departments and key stakeholders to address strategic wind energy issues and our processes for considering wind farm proposals.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he intends to answer Question 168870, tabled by the hon. Member for North Devon on 22 November 2007, on service family accommodation. [194424]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member today.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Active Places Website

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who is responsible for compiling the data on the Active Places website; and how much the website cost to maintain in 2007-08. [194513]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: Sport England collects and publishes details of sports facilities in England on the Active Places database. The data are updated by two organisations: Landmark for grass pitches; and the Leisure Database Company for all other facilities on the database.

The budget for 2007-08 is £1.1 million which is being used to fund data maintenance, data acquisition, systems development and hosting.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to minimise the adverse effects of 24-hour drinking on businesses in Coventry city centre. [193344]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* No concerns have been raised with me or my Department specifically about the impact of the licensing reform on businesses in Coventry city centre.

The first statistical bulletin on licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 was published on 8 November 2007. This suggests that Coventry city licensing authority have granted a total of 814 premises licences of which 61 have 24 hour licences. Of these only five are pubs, bars or nightclubs.

Under the Licensing Act 2003, local businesses in the vicinity of a licensed premises or a body representing those businesses can ask for the licence to be reviewed if the premises is having a negative impact on one or more of the four licensing objectives.

Arts: North West

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the North West Development Agency on support for creative industries in the north-west region. [194451]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* My Department has been in regular contact with the North West Development Agency in developing Creative Britain, our strategy for the creative industries.

A key commitment in Creative Britain is the development, by the North West Development Agency and the South West Regional Development Agency, of pilot regional creative economy strategic frameworks.

Big Lottery Fund

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund and *(b)* Sport England has plans to introduce a mentoring scheme similar to that proposed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. [194744]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has issued policy directions to UK and England lottery distributors which set the broad framework within which they operate. Whether to offer a mentoring scheme is an operational matter which falls within the remit of individual distributors and is an issue for their consideration.

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1389W, on the Convergence Think Tank, what external bodies have been commissioned to carry out research for the Think Tank. [191163]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not yet commissioned any research from external bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192114]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK. In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented. In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender. The DCMS Equality Scheme 2007-10 sets out the action which the Department is taking to promote gender equality. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Regulatory Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191269]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

<http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp>.

For DCMS, 13 have been listed.

My Department is in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007. From April 2008, all final impact assessments will be published on a central website.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194977]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no claims for discrimination based on sex, race or sexual orientation brought against the Department in the last five years.

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the cost to the UK economy of physical inactivity. [194929]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2002, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Strategy Unit jointly published Game Plan: a strategy for delivering Government's sport and physical activity objectives. This report estimates that the cost to the UK economy of physical inactivity is at least £2 billion.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications there have been to the Gambling Commission from an operator seeking a remote operating licence only. [194389]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* At 13 March 2008, 156 operators have applied to the Gambling Commission for operating licences which allow them to provide remote gambling only.

Gaming: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to permit an increase in the number of category B3 gaming machines in *(a)* bingo halls and *(b)* adult gaming centres. [193674]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are currently considering representations that have been made to us by the main trade bodies which represent the bingo and arcades sectors—the Bingo Association and the British Amusement Catering Trades Association—for an increase in the number of category B3 machines that are permitted.

In considering this issue, I will seek to balance the representations that have been made to me by the trade bodies with my overriding responsibility to protect the public from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

I will make an announcement about how I intend to proceed in due course.

Grants: Publicity

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* the Arts Council England and *(d)* the Heritage Lottery Fund takes to encourage the submission of funding bids in areas where funding has previously been awarded. [194742]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Every constituency has had at least 100 Lottery grants. Decisions on these matters are for Lottery distributors themselves to make. However, we have given them the powers to solicit applications where they see fit. We have also issued policy directions to UK and England Lottery distributors which require them to take into account certain matters when determining the purposes for which and to whom they distribute money. These include ensuring that all areas of the UK or England have access to the money distributed.

Lacrosse

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote and increase participation in lacrosse. [194223]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The English Lacrosse Association (ELA) has been awarded £1.26 million from Sport England between 2005-09 to support the delivery of its Whole Sport Plan.

Sport England identified Lacrosse as a 'development' sport for investment in the 2005-09 Whole Sport Plan funding round, to support the grassroots development of the sport.

The ELA has also received £44,333 to support delivery of the Step into Sport programme which is part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Children and Young people.

The ELA uses this funding to increase the number of accredited clubs in lacrosse as well as increasing the number of coaches and volunteers actively involved in the sport.

Lacrosse: Finance

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on funding for the participation of the England Men's U19 Lacrosse Squad in the U19 Lacrosse World Championship in British Columbia in July 2008. [194222]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has received a range of correspondence about this issue. DCMS channels its funding for sport through its non-departmental public bodies, including Sport England. Therefore, correspondents have been directed to Sport England for further advice about funding opportunities.

We understand that the English Lacrosse Association has raised the issue of additional funding to support England lacrosse teams with Sport England, but has not made any formal application for funding to date. Any future application will be considered on its merits and against Sport England's published funding criteria.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding streams are available via sports organisations to support the England lacrosse team members. [194224]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The English Lacrosse Association is able to use funding from Sport England for its Whole Sport Plan 2005-09 to support English lacrosse team members, with 'International Success' being one of the Key Performance Indicators against which Sport England's investment in lacrosse is measured.

Licensing Laws: Fees and Charges

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response his Department has made to the final report of the Independent Fees Review Panel chaired by Sir Les Elton. [194579]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are considering their response to the Independent Licensing Fees Panel report and I expect to make a formal response shortly.

Licensing: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences to sell alcohol have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* renewed in North Kent in each of the last five years. [191415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, data on the number of alcohol licences and certificates granted and renewed in England and Wales under the Licensing Act 1964 were collected by petty sessional divisions (magistrates court areas) on a triennial basis, in accordance with the three yearly cycle of licence renewals. The last available data in relation to the 1964 Act were published in 2004. These indicated that 172,167 premises and 8,274 registered clubs had their licences renewed or granted respectively in that year. It is not possible to break this number down regionally, but the number of licences granted or renewed in Kent was as follows:

Petty session division	*Total number of on and off premises*
Canterbury and St. Augustine	431
Channel	1,148
Dartford and Gravesend	484
Faversham and Sittingbourne	414
Medway	690
Mid Kent	611
Thanet	553
West Kent	1,047

The first Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment licences and certificates issued under the Licensing Act 2003, was published on the DCMS website on 8 November 2007 and shows the number of licences granted and in force as at 31 March 2007. The following table shows the number of licences and certificates granted in 2006-07 and the number of licences in force. It should be noted that the figures cover all premises licences and certificates issued under the 2003 Act and will include some that do not allow the sale of alcohol.

Personal licences issued under the 2003 Act are renewed every 10 years. There is no renewal process for premises licences and certificates issued under the 2003 Act.

	Premises licences and club premises certificates			*Personal licences*	
Licensing authority	*Number granted in 2006-07*	*All licences*[1]	*Alcohol licences*[1]	*Number granted in 2006-07*	*Total number in force as at 31 March 2007*
Ashford	28	342	321	146	692
Canterbury	89	664	588	165	981
Dartford	15	294	[2]71	125	571
Dover	37	386	313	124	818
Gravesham	71	314	243	207	588
Maidstone	40	493	443	174	866
Medway	[3]—	785	[2]207	556	1,350
Sevenoaks	22	407	342	89	230
Shepway	22	422	320	198	717
Swale	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Thanet	62	579	492	137	1,027
Tonbridge and Malling	14	376	331	117	699
Tunbridge Wells	31	362	293	115	658

[1] Number in force as at 31 March 2007

[2] Some of licensing authorities double counted the number of premises with an alcohol licence when providing a figure for different types of alcohol permission (eg "on-sales only" or "both on and off sales"). Amendments were made to these so that the total number of alcohol licensed premises was no more than the total number of premised licences, but some LAs may still have over-reported the number of premises licences and certificates with authorised sale of alcohol.

[3] Data not supplied

Licensing: Public Order Offences

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance he has issued to local authorities on using powers under the Licensing Act 2003 to reduce public disorder. [194399]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government issued revised guidance under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 on 28 June 2007. The guidance can be viewed on:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/597B72E2-61BC-44AD-98D2-6BC7208FD740/0/RevisedGuidanceJune2007.pdf>

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport also announced on 4 March 2008 that the Government would work with police and local authorities to help them better identify potential problem premises and areas. We will also encourage them to make full use of the powers in the 2003 Act to tackle premises that are a source of disorder.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he chose not to accept English Heritage's advice on the listing of buildings in each of the last three years; and on how many occasions this was because he did not assess the building as having sufficient architectural or historic interest to merit listing. [194933]

Margaret Hodge: No central record is maintained, either by the Department or English Heritage, to show the number of occasions on which advice provided by English Heritage on listing applications is overruled. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All listing decisions are based on an assessment of whether a building meets the listing criteria of special architectural or historic interest.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1178-9W, on museums and galleries, how many people each percentage figure represents. [194819]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Attendance at museums and galleries

Attendance at museums and galleries

	2005-06		*2006-07*	
Priority group	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
Black and minority ethnic	35.5	1,390	33.6	1,320
Limiting disability	32.1	2,750	31.1	2,630
Lower socio-economic	28.3	4,460	28.2	4,500
All adults	42.3	16,770	41.5	16,550

Note:
Population figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Obesity

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's public service agreement targets were for combating obesity in *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2004 and *(e)* 2007; and what the (i) baselines and (ii) targets set were in each case. [194932]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In July 2004, a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target was set for the first time to "halt the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11 by 2010, in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole".

This PSA was co-owned by the Department of Health, the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

With progress against the target measured through the Health Survey for England data on obesity prevalence in children aged between two and 10, the baseline established for the three-year period 2002-04 was 14.9 per cent.

Last year's comprehensive spending review set a new PSA to "improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people", which is co-owned by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

As part of this new PSA, there is the commitment to reduce the rate of increase in obesity among children under 11 as a first step towards a long-term national ambition by 2020 to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels in the context of tackling obesity across the population.

The baseline figure is still in development and will be confirmed by the Department of Health by April this year.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport remains a key partner in delivery of this commitment.

Performing Arts

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Arts Council on encouraging theatre, opera and ballet companies to schedule more tours in the regions of England. [194376]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: Touring by regularly funded organisations is part of on-going discussions between the Department and Arts Council England as we take forward the recommendations of "Supporting Excellence in the Arts—From Measurement to Judgment" by Sir Brian McMaster.

Arts Council England supports the widest possible touring of work and in 2006-07 a total of 14,926 performances were given by 130 touring performing arts organisations.

Arts Council England's distribution policy covers both touring and digital distribution. Priorities for distribution for 2007-11 are to:

> "Publish and implement a detailed distribution strategy to enable more people to access the arts in the places, context and formats of their choice. We will do this through consultation with artists, arts organisations, the public and partners in the commercial and subsidised creative industries."

I am arranging for copies of "Supporting Excellence in the Arts—From Measurement to Judgment" to be placed in the House Libraries.

Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 10-11, on playing fields, (1) what assessment he has made of the concerns raised about the adequacy of playing fields protection, with particular reference to the five year rule on consultation; [194875]

(2) whether he has subsequently met Sport England to discuss concerns raised about the protection currently provided to playing fields, with specific reference to the five-year rule on consultation. [195010]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have tough protections in place to protect playing fields and planning guidance is clear that no playing field needed by the local community should be lost. This is supported by the facts. In 2005-06 (the latest year for which we have figures) Sport England reported that 97 per cent. of all planning applications affecting playing fields represented either an improvement or no change to sporting provision.

However, we are not complacent and continue to keep the effectiveness of current arrangements under review. I am aware of concerns from some organisations that having a time limit acts as an incentive for developers to fence off playing field land from public use in the hope of gaining future planning permission. As such, I have asked Sport England to investigate and assess any issues surrounding the five year rule on consultation. Following this my officials and Sport England will be meeting their colleagues in Communities and Local Government shortly to discuss the issue.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department defines a playing field. [194923]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A playing field is defined in The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 1996 as the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch. A pitch is defined as a delineated area, which together with any run off area, is of 0.4 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has met *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* Fields in Trust to discuss the effectiveness of legislation for the protection of playing fields in the last 12 months. [194924]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I met Fields in Trust (FIT) in October 2007 and we had a wide-ranging discussion about playing fields issues. I have regular meetings with Sport England and discussions cover all aspects of their remit, including playing fields. In addition, my officials have met Sport England and FIT to discuss, inter alia, the current legislation for the protection of playing fields.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many planning applications were accepted for development of playing fields where the site was too small or the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch in each of the last five years. [194926]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application that will result in the loss of a playing field, unless applicants can prove it represents a better deal for sport and meets one of five exceptions as defined in Sport England's Planning Policy Statement—A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England, (available on their website at http://www.sportengland.org). Exception E3 is defined as:

> The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.
>
> Reason: The development of minor parts of a site (e.g. frontage land, steep slopes unsuitable for pitches) can provide a useful source of capital for sports organisations to develop their activities without detriment to the facilities. In order to avoid incremental loss of land, Sport England will use the nature and extent of provision available at any time during 1996 as a base for all assessments.

The table shows planning applications accepted for development on playing fields in each of the last five years that fall within this exceptions policy.

	Cases where the site was too small or wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch (REF E3)
2001-02	201
2002-03	257
2003-04	314
2004-05	245
2005-06	314

Public Libraries

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on library services. [194452]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: I have had no discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government about library services.

Sport: Community Development

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding grassroots community sport has received from *(a)* the national lottery and *(b)* the public purse in each year since 1997; and how much it is projected to receive in each year of the comprehensive spending review period to 2010-11. [194861]

Andy Burnham: Financial support for community sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England which dispenses Exchequer and lottery funds for sport. The tables show how much *(a)* lottery and *(b)* Exchequer funding has been spent through Sport England on grassroots community sport (including School Sport through the PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESCCL) strategy) in each year since 1997:

£000

	Lottery	*Exchequer (including School Sport)*
1997-98	189,237	26,024
1998-99	320,738	24,187
1999-2000	145,607	27,894
2000-01	326,521	33,293
2001-02	469,534	43,472
2002-03	239,628	84,311
2003-04	160,416	31 ,442
2004-05	188,364	61,229
2005-06	158,592	58,725
2006-07	126,221	77,499
2007-08 (Forecast)	123,369	89,476

These lottery and Exchequer figures include funding invested through national governing bodies whole and one sport plans, some of which supports talent and elite activities, as this could be separated out only at disproportionate cost.

In addition the following funding has been provided through the BIG Lottery Fund:

	£000 BIG Lottery
2002-03	4,501
2003-04	23,957
2004-05	60,862
2005-06	197,755
2006-07	175,423

On funding arising from the comprehensive spending review, Sport England has been allocated the following Exchequer funding:

	£ million
2008-09	133.163
2009-10	130.163
2010-11	128.163

On lottery funding, it is estimated that Sport England will receive the following income:

	£ million
2008-09	141.0
2009-10	119.0
2010-11	119.0

All of this funding will be committed primarily on community and grassroots sports projects.

Swimming Pools

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pool complexes in England there are; and how many of them have a diving pool. [192803]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Sport England collects and publishes details of sports facilities in England on the Active Places database. There are currently over 70,000 sports facilities recorded on the database and the data are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. To ensure that robust year on year data comparisons about sports facilities can be made, Sport England records formally the overall position each year in November.

The Active Places database records that, as at November 2007, there were 4,614 swimming pools on 3,461 sites in England. Of these, 168 pools have diving facilities. Their status is recorded as follows:

Open—143;

Under construction—one;

Temporarily closed for refurbishment or seasonal reasons—24.

Of the 168 pools, 58 have purpose-built diving pools, sometimes referred to as diving 'tanks' or 'pits'.

I understand that Sport England has written to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent recently providing a detailed breakdown of all the diving facilities recorded on the Active Places database.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has produced guidelines on *(a)* the provision of public swimming pools per head of population and *(b)* the size of new public swimming pools. [194512]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The information is as follows:

(a) This Department does not produce a national standard for public swimming per head of population. Government planning advice (planning policy guidance note 17 (PPG 17)—Open Space, Sport and Recreation) has moved away from a national standards approach in planning for community facilities. Local authorities are now encouraged to develop local standards to meet their locally identified needs through the production of local sport and recreation strategies. Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a companion guide to PPG 17 provides further guidance to local authorities in undertaking local needs assessments.

(b) This Department does not suggest a standard for the size of new public swimming pools. General details on pool design can be found on Sport England's website at:

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_downloads/facilities_guidance.htm

Further guidelines are available from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and Fédération Internationale de Natation (Fina) dependent on level of performance.

Television: Licences

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many monochrome television licences were issued in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [194937]

Andy Burnham: The figures for each year are as follows:

	Number of monochrome television licences
2002-03	93,000
2003-04	74,000
2004-05	58,000
2005-06	49,000
2006-07	40,400

Tourism

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage overseas tourists to visit destinations outside London. [194251]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has provided VisitBritain with funding of £49.9 million in 2007-08 to promote Britain as a whole as an attractive place to visit. The Department's funding agreement with VisitBritain includes a target that, of the additional expenditure by inbound visitors generated by VisitBritain, a specified percentage should be achieved outside London. For 2005-06, the target was 55 per cent. and VisitBritain exceeded this by achieving a regional spread of 61 per cent. For 2006-07, the target was 54 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 57 per cent.

My Department also supports the Mayor of London in the delivery of the Greater London Authority's statutory tourism duties. These include the duty to encourage people from outside the United Kingdom to visit the United Kingdom by way of Greater London.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to market seaside resorts as holiday destinations. [194048]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has provided VisitBritain with funding of £49.9 million in 2007-08 to promote Britain as an attractive place to visit. Within VisitBritain, VisitEngland promotes England to the domestic market. VisitBritain and VisitEngland are aware of the importance of the coast and seaside resorts to British tourism: for example, the 'English Rose' TV campaign featured coastal scenes. Other campaigns (which are themed, rather than geographical) feature seaside resorts, such as 'Family Fun!', 'Rural Escapes' and 'TasteEngland'. A recent promotional supplement in *The Times* featured Holiday Parks on the coast. VisitBritain's websites, such as visitbritain.com and enjoyengland.com, feature seaside towns extensively and provide destination guides, and VisitBritain works with seaside resorts to encourage positive press coverage.

The promotion of seaside resorts is not limited to VisitBritain. Regional Development Agencies and local authorities also promote seaside resorts within their areas.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Dawn McFeeley

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency (CSA) and the Minister responsible for the CSA will examine the handling of the case of the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire's constituent, Mrs. Dawn McFeeley. [193227]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency (CSA) and the Minister responsible for the CSA will examine the handling of the case of the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire's constituent Mrs Dawn McFeeley. [193227]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency were classed as pending at the latest date for which figures are available. [192635]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency were classed as pending at the latest date for which figures are available. [192635]

The Agency does not have a classification of cases 'pending' we have interpreted your question as relating to uncleared applications.

The number of uncleared applications across the two schemes has almost halved since the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan was launched in April 2006. In December 2007 there were a total of 151,200 uncleared cases; this is the lowest number of uncleared cases since records began.

Additional information on uncleared cases can be found in table 2.1 of the December 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), available in the House of Commons Library or online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Staff

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff the Child Support Agency employed in each of the last five years. [192634]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 7 March 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff the Child Support Agency employed in each o the last five years. [192634]

The table below shows the average number employed by the Agency in each of the last five years as published in the Child Support Agency Annual Reports and Accounts.

Financial year	*Average number of full-time equivalents employed*
2002-03	10,287
2003-04	10,215
2004-05	10,188
2005-06	10,432
2006-07	11,386

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the comprehensive spending review. [191475]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Annex pertaining to my Department in meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (CM 7227).

Details of how the Department plans to live within its comprehensive spending review settlement is contained within its three-year business plan 2008-11, published on 28 February 2008.

Copies of the plan have been placed in the Library of the House, or can be viewed electronically at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/3yrplan/

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189770]

Mrs. McGuire: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has a home working policy that enables employees to work from home when it is appropriate to do so. Employees are able to work from home either permanently on a contractual basis, or occasionally on an ad hoc basis.

The Department introduced a new resource management (RM) personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. Since roll-out of the RM system in April 2007 no data have been collated on the volumes of employees who are classed as contractual home workers.

Managers may exercise discretion to authorise employees to work from home, on an ad hoc basis, and may do so for a variety of reasons. By their nature the numbers cannot be quantified and statistical data have never been collected about ad hoc home working arrangements.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's personal digital assistants have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185268]

Mr. Timms: The following table shows the numbers of personal digital assistants (PDAs) issued to departmental staff and were reported as stolen, lost, or missing (presumed to be stolen) in each of the last five years. The records do not differentiate between those items which were reported as lost, stolen or missing, respectively.

	PDAs
2003	0
2004	1
2005	0
2006	0
2007	19

The Department does not own any personal digital assistants; these are leased from a service provider and the value of the items is not recorded by the Department.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [178885]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193553]

Mrs. McGuire: The total staff with AVC's at 1 March 2007 was 360 (0.28 per cent. of DWP total staff).

The total staff with AVC's at 1 March 2008 was 351 (0.27 per cent. of DWP total staff).

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2367-8W, on departments: public participation, how many citizens' juries his Department has held in the last six months; and for what purposes they were held. [189917]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP has not yet facilitated any citizens' juries. We do however conduct a wide range of citizen engagement activities across the Department; these are designed to ensure that citizens' needs are placed at the forefront of improving service delivery and in policy development.

Disabled: Equal Opportunities

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government take to monitor compliance with equal opportunities legislation in the employment of disabled people by television and broadcasting companies and makers of television programmes. [192734]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department undertakes regular research on how employers and service providers are meeting their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The latest research report, ("Organisations' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act" - DWP Research Report 410[1]), which was published in 2007, provided data on whether organisations had employed disabled people; broken down by the size of employer and whether the organisations were from the public, private or voluntary sector. It did not, however, monitor specific types of industry, such as television and broadcasting. The research shows that, overall, 47 per cent. of all the establishments surveyed reported having employed at least one disabled member of staff within the past 10 years, and 34 per cent. said that they employed at least one disabled person at the time of the survey.

The Labour Force Survey provides quarterly statistics on the employment rates of disabled people, and provides a breakdown by industry sector. For example, the survey for the period October to December 2007 shows that, of disabled people in work, 7.64 per cent. were employed in the 'Transport, Storage and Communication' sector. However, data for this sector cannot be broken down further by individual types of communication, such as television and broadcasting.

The broadcasting regulatory regime includes obligations on radio and television broadcasters to promote equal opportunities in employment on the basis of gender, race and disability. The broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, monitors and reports on broadcasters' compliance with the obligations.

[1] This report may be accessed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep410.pdf

Employment Level

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target employment rates of *(a)* women and *(b)* older workers were for each year since 1997; and whether these targets were met. [188389]

Mr. Timms: We do not have a target employment rate for women. However, we do know that female employment is over 70 per cent. and the trend has been upwards for some time. As a result the UK has already exceeded the EU target for getting female employment above 60 per cent. by 2010.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not set numerical targets for the employment rate of older people. The public service agreement (PSA) targets set in the 2002 and 2004 comprehensive spending reviews were, taking account of the economic cycle, to increase the employment rate of people aged 50 and over, and significantly reduce the difference between their employment rate and the overall rate.

The 2002 PSA target covered people aged 50 to state pension age. The 2004 target extended the age range to people aged 50 to 69 to take account of, and encourage, working past state pension age.

The employment rates for older people are set out in the following tables.

Employment rates for people aged 50 to state pension age and 16 to state pension age spring 2003 to spring 2006 (2002 PSA)

Percentage

	Employment rate 50 to state pension age	*Employment rate 16 to state pension age*
Baseline spring 2003	70.0	74.9
Spring 2006	70.9	74.6

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Employment rates for people aged 50 to 69 and 16 to state pension age quarter 2 2005 to quarter 2 2008 (2004 PSA)

Percentage

	Employment rate 50 to 69	*Employment rate 16 to State Pension Age*
Baseline quarter 2 2005	54.6	74.9
Quarter 2 2007	55.5	74.3
Quarter 2 2008	n/a	n/a

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Interim statistics from quarter 2 2007 indicate that the 2004 PSA target is on course to be met.

In addition, the European Council has agreed a target for increasing the average EU employment rate for older men and women (aged 55 to 64) to 50 per cent. by 2010. The UK has already met this target with an employment rate of 57.4 per cent. for this age group in 2006.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to abolish the single room rent. [193922]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have no plans to abolish the single room rent, which is designed to ensure that the level of housing benefit for single young people is based on the size and type of accommodation that they would typically occupy and, importantly, be able to afford.

Incapacity Benefit: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what average length of time elapsed between the date of application and date of determination of applications for incapacity benefit in Dorset in each of the last three years; [190590]

(2) what average length of time Dorset residents in receipt of incapacity benefit had to wait for a personal capability assessment in each of the last three years. [190611]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 18 March 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions about the average length of time between the date of application and date of determination for Incapacity Benefit claims in Dorset in each of the last three years and the average length of time Dorset residents in receipt of Incapacity Benefit have had to wait before being able to receive a Personal Capability Assessment in the last three years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The figures for the Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT), for Incapacity Benefit claims in Dorset for the last three years are in the table.

Dorset Incapacity Benefit AACT

	Days	*Target (days)*
Year ending March 2006	49.41	18
Year ending March 2007	16.25	18
Year to January 2008	11.05	18

We are unable to provide information about the average length of time Dorset residents in receipt of Incapacity Benefit have had to wait before receiving a Personal Capability Assessment in the last three years because Personal Capability Assessments are triggered at different times during the life of an Incapacity Benefit claim depending on the nature of the person's incapacity.

I hope you find this useful.

Jobcentres: Telephone Services

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many incidents of Jobcentre 0845 telephone system failure have occurred in the last 12 months; [188523]

(2) what mechanisms his Department has in place to inform callers of contact alternatives when a Jobcentre's telephony service fails to connect to an operator. [188524]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 18 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many incidents of Jobcentre 0845 telephone system failure have occurred in the last 12 months and what mechanisms are in place to inform callers of contact alternatives when a jobcentre's telephony service fails to connect to an operator. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There have been no failures of the 0845 telephone system in the last 12 months. On limited occasions we have experienced minor technical problems causing telephony difficulties. These are problems that impact on one site and not the whole network.

Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres are currently answering over 94% of calls offered and are consistently delivering a good level of service to customers.

Customers calling a standalone Contact Centre (i.e. not operating within a virtual environment) whose call can not be connected would hear an emergency message which informs them that there is a problem, and asks them to call back later. Our Network Management Team is immediately notified and they ensure that calls are re-routed from the Contact Centre with the temporary problem to other Contact Centres. When the customer calls again the call would be answered.

From June 2008 all Contact Centre sites will be operating within a Virtual Environment. In the event of any telephony problems calls are automatically diverted and answered by another site.

Customers who need to call a Benefit Delivery Centre, instead of a Contact Centre, and are not connected to an operator will receive a message advising them that all our lines are busy and asking them to call back later. The message goes on to give the switchboard opening times.

Pension Credit: Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the distribution by household income quintile of the expenditure arising from pension credit in each year since its introduction. [186977]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the expenditure on pension credit by equivalised income quintile on an after-housing cost basis is set out in the following table for available years. These figures are rounded to the nearest £50 million.

Expenditure on pension credit by equivalised income quintile across all individuals, 2004-05 to 2005-06

£ million, after housing costs

	Bottom quintile	*Second quintile*	*Middle quintile*	*Fourth quintile*	*Top quintile*	*Total*
2004-05	1,200	2,150	1,500	1,050	150	5,971
2005-06	1,150	2,450	1,450	1,150	200	6,426

Notes:

1. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003. This means data is available only for 2004-05 and 2005-06.
2. All figures are shown in nominal terms (i.e. not adjusted for inflation).
3. The information shown is for Great Britain.
4. Shares of benefit expenditure by quintile according to the Family Resources Survey have been applied to administrative data to derive a split by quintile. Administrative data totals are available to the nearest million pounds, while information based on survey data is presented rounded to the nearest £50 million.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across quintiles. For example, if 30 per cent. of expenditure is in a certain quintile, this assumes 30 per cent. of any undercount is also in that quintile.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series.
7. The quintiles are derived using OECD equivalisation factors.

The relatively low level of expenditure in the bottom quintile is partly explained by the low proportion of pensioners in that quintile, with only 15 per cent. of pensioners in the bottom quintile of incomes across all individuals. Many pensioners are moved out of this quintile by pension credit and other benefits, so expenditure in the lowest quintile is expected to be relatively low.

Pensioners

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners lived in the United Kingdom in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by income quintile. [186978]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information regarding the income distribution of individuals is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)", a copy of which is available in the Library.

Latest information relates to 2005-06. The number of pensioners by quintile of the net income after housing costs income distribution is shown in the following table.

Number of pensioners in each quintile of the income distribution, measured after housing costs

	Number (million)
Bottom quintile	1.6
Second quintile	3.2
Third quintile	2.5
Fourth quintile	2.0
Top quintile	1.5
All pensioners	10.8

Notes:

1. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. The Family Resources Survey does not include pensioners living in communal establishments, such as care homes and nursing homes.

3. A pensioner is defined as an individual over state pension age.

4. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

5. The Table shows numbers in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2005/06.

Social Security: Data Protection

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he has put in place to prevent information stored on the social security database being transferred without authorisation to representatives of the media in the last two years. [188212]

Mr. Timms: The Department is required to follow the Data Protection Act in the way it handles personal data, in particular the Seventh Principle which places requirements on organisations to ensure that

> 'appropriate technical and organisational measures are taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data'.

Transferring information from any of the Department's databases to a third party without authority is prohibited by the Department's rules. The Department has in place an extensive range of measures in order to comply with the Data Protection Act.

State Retirement Pensions: Inflation

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of linking the basic state pension to the rate of inflation with effect from 2009; and if he will make a statement; [189019]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average increase in the value of the basic state pension following its linkage to the rate of inflation in each of the next three years. [189020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government currently have a commitment to annually increase the basic state pension by 2.5 per cent. or the retail prices index (RPI), whichever is higher. During the next Parliament we will re-link the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event at the latest by the end of the next Parliament.

The standard rate of basic state pension for the current financial year 2007-08 is £87.30. In 2008-09 it will increase in line with the RPI to £90.70.

The estimated level of DWP expenditure on contributory basic state pension is set to rise from £47.2 billion in 2007-08 to £49.9 billion in 2008-09, £52.7 billion in 2009-10 and £54.8 billion in 2010-11 (in cash terms).

Notes:

1. The standard rates of basic state pension given in the previous paragraph are rounded to the nearest five pence.

2. Contributory basic state pension expenditure refers to Great Britain and overseas cases; figures supplied are consistent with the Budget 2008 report.

Welfare to Work: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of the resource departmental expenditure limit will be allocated to his Department's welfare to work programmes for each of the years of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period; [195080]

(2) what the total estimated expenditure incurred by his Department was on welfare to work programmes in the year 2006-07; [195081]

(3) how much *(a)* was spent and *(b)* is projected to be spent on contracted employment programmes for (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09, (iv) 2009-10 and (v) 2010-11. [195082]

Mr. Timms: Employment Programme spend in 2006-07 was £952[1] million. Employment Programme spend in 2007-08 is forecast to be around £1,026 million.

Our recently published 'Three Year Business Plan 2008-11', provides figures for planned expenditure on Employment Programmes in CSR 07.

[1] Source: Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07.

Planned expenditure on Department for Work and Pensions Employment Programmes

	Expenditure (£ million)	Proportion of DEL expenditure (percentage)
2008-09	1,351	17
2009-10	1,376	17
2010-11	1,381	18

We anticipate that up to 70 per cent. of this expenditure will be contracted to voluntary and private sector organisations.

Winter Fuel Payments: Greater London

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a winter fuel payment in *(a)* Richmond Park constituency, *(b)* the Royal borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and *(c)* Richmond-upon-Thames borough in the most recent period for which figures are available. [194244]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table. We expect the numbers to be similar for winter 2007-08.

	Winter fuel payments made in winter 2006-07
Richmond Park constituency	18,380
Royal borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	24,210
Richmond-upon-Thames borough	30,090

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Abuse: Telephone Services

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the volume of calls to helplines funded by his Department following the news reporting of past events at Haut de La Garenne; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of capacity to meet demand. [194415]

Kevin Brennan: The Department closely monitors volumes and subjects of calls received to its helpline. To date there has not been an increase in the volume of calls made to the Department's helpline as a result of the news reporting of past events at Haut de La Garenne. The helpline operates a flexible resourcing system which enables capacity to be quickly increased when required. I believe this to be adequate to meet demand.

After School Clubs: Morecambe and Lunesdale

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage the development of breakfast clubs in schools in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194779]

Beverley Hughes: Providing access to activities before school, including breakfast clubs, is a part of the extended schools core offer. We are committed to all schools providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010, with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

The core offer comprises a varied menu of activities in primary and secondary schools; high quality child care 8 am to 6 pm 48 weeks a year in primary schools; parenting support; swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services such as health and social care; and wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.

The Training and Development Agency works closely with local authorities and schools to help them deliver a range of services and activities beyond the school day. They also support ContinYou to develop a range of initiatives that have promoted, improved and measured the impact of breakfast clubs. This includes running a national Breakfast Club Award scheme, conducting research into breakfast club provision, producing guides and resources for breakfast club staff, and setting up the only UK website dedicated to supporting breakfast club development.

Children: Autism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of special educational needs co-ordinators have specialist training in supporting children with autism; and if he will make a statement. [194189]

Kevin Brennan: Given the range of continuing professional development undertaken by special educational needs co-ordinators, it is not practicable to collect and record centrally specialist training undertaken in relation to children with autism. We are funding the Autism Education Trust which aims to improve autism provision and promote effective practice and training in meeting autistic children's needs.

The Department is working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools on the development of a national framework for accrediting newly appointed special educational needs co-ordinators in schools. We envisage that national training arrangements will require knowledge of the main types of SEN, but it is too early to comment on the precise shape and nature of the arrangements; further consultation and development work is needed.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in mainstream education were autistic at the latest date for which figures are available. [194190]

Kevin Brennan: Information from the School Census shows that, in January 2007 in England, there were 18,820 pupils with autistic spectrum disorder in maintained primary schools (0.5 per cent. of those on roll in maintained primary schools) and 11,760 such pupils in maintained secondary schools (0.4 per cent. of those on roll in maintained secondary schools). These figures refer to those pupils at school action plus and with a statement of special educational needs who have autistic spectrum disorder as their primary need. They exclude pupils in general hospital schools and dually registered pupils.

Children: Day Care

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department makes available to single parents to help with the costs of child care. [194782]

Beverley Hughes: This Government recognise that child care costs are a serious matter for some families including lone parents, which is why we are doing more than ever before to make good quality child care and early education accessible and affordable.

We are investing £3 billion per year to support free early education, so all three and four-year-olds, irrespective of the employment status of their parents, can benefit from 12.5 hours of free early years provision for 38 weeks per year. This increases to 15 hours by 2010 and will be delivered more flexibly to meet families' needs. In addition, we announced in the Children's Plan an additional £100 million to pilot a free entitlement for 20,000 of our most disadvantaged two-year-olds.

We provide substantial help (totalling over £3 million a day) through the tax credit system, in providing up to 80 per cent. of child care costs—helping nearly 430,000 families.

Beginning in September 2008, £75 million has been made available over three years, so that 50,000 workless families can benefit from free childcare, allowing parents to access training and move into work.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus have a range of funding available for costs of child care including funds specifically for lone parents, under the new deal for lone parents programme.

The Budget increased the commitment to child care by announcing additional pilots to support new approaches to child care, building on good practice from the additional child care support provided by the £33 million London Childcare Affordability Programme. In addition, the Government will also pilot new child development grants of £200 in 10 local authority areas, payable where parents take up their child care places and have contact with their local Children's Centre.

The DCSF "affordable childcare" campaign aims to make parents much more aware of the range of provision in their areas and the support available to make child care more affordable. Specific strands of work have been developed for lone parents, which have received good feedback and high response rates. In addition, the budget announced a pilot to place HM Revenue and Customs advisers in children's centres to provide help with claims for the child care element of the working tax credit, and keeping their awards up to date.

Children: Forced Marriage

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to identify, monitor and protect children vulnerable to potential forced marriage; and if he will make a statement; [194609]

(2) what specific guidance his Department has in place for informing and working with *(a)* the police, *(b)* the Home Office, *(c)* local social service departments and *(d)* other relevant bodies when schools suspect pupils are vulnerable to offences associated with surrounding forced marriage; and if he will make a statement; [194610]

(3) what arrangements social services departments make to inform *(a)* the police and *(b)* relevant schools about the identities of children in care identified as being vulnerable to forced marriage; [194707]

(4) how many children which his Department have assessed as vulnerable to offences associated with forced marriage have gone missing from care in each of the last five years; [194708]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the number of pupils missing from school rolls who may be vulnerable to offences associated with forced marriage; and if he will make a statement. [194710]

Kevin Brennan: Child abuse is completely unacceptable. We are determined to address all types of abuse and harm to children including forced marriage, domestic violence, child trafficking, and others. All professionals working with or who come into contact with children, including those working in health or education, should be aware of how to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, including signs of possible abuse or neglect. If they have reason to believe that a child is at risk from harm as a result of a potential forced marriage, they should take action to follow up their concern, involving other agencies as required. This should take place for any child at risk of abuse.

Guidance for relevant organisations and professionals is set out in "What To Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused" (2006), and in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006). "Working Together" is statutory guidance aimed at all individuals and organisations that have responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and sets out the detailed processes that must be followed where there is cause for concern about a child's welfare. This contains specific guidance on forced marriage.

This Government have created statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to co-ordinate what local bodies do to safeguard children and to ensure that they are working effectively together. LSCBs draw up local procedures for how agencies, including education, children's social care, and the police, work together. These procedures often contain specific, detailed sections on identifying and responding to particular types of harm to children, such as forced marriage.

The Children Act 2004 also gave a range of statutory agencies a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Statutory guidance, "Making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004", was issued in July 2005 and updated in March 2007. This is aimed at the police, hospitals, prisons and others covered by the requirement saying what they should do to make sure children are safe.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and my Department produced practical guidance for education professionals, "Dealing with Cases of Forced Marriage" in 2005. My Department is currently working with the FMU to revise this guidance and put it onto a statutory footing in the autumn, following a period of public consultation.

The Department has no role in assessing the vulnerability of individual children—local authorities have the statutory function to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who may be in need, including looked after children. This includes minimising the risk of children going missing from care, keeping detailed records when children do go missing, and taking steps to address the reasons why an individual child might go missing.

National figures showing the overall numbers of children who went missing from their care placements for more than 24 hours are published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

All looked after children have a detailed care plan, informed by a full assessment of their needs under the assessment framework for children in need and their families. This assessment includes all the factors that are relevant to safeguarding the child and promoting their welfare, and the resulting care plan sets out the information that needs to be shared with other agencies in order to keep the child safe.

Statistics on children missing from education are not collected nationally. We introduced a new statutory duty in February 2007 for local authorities to put robust systems in place to identify any child not receiving a suitable education, and provided guidance on how to implement this duty. I have written to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector to ask Ofsted to provide their view of how well this new duty is being implemented.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to include further guidance to local authorities on cases involving children who have been groomed in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. [191439]

Kevin Brennan: Guidance on safeguarding children from sexual exploitation, which is currently being drafted, will include information about children who have been groomed. The guidance will be issued as supplementary guidance to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

Children's Centres: Ashford

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres are open in Ashford; and how many places are available at such centres. [195142]

Beverley Hughes: As of 17 March there are two designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Ashford with a further four planned for designation by the end of March 2008.

Children's centres do not offer a set number of places but it is expected that on average a children's centre will serve a community with about 800 children under five-years-old.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what system is used to govern IP address usage in his Department. [19[illegible]356]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) utilises industry standard technology and CESG approved processes for managing all IP addresses used on both the internet and on the Department's secure, internal network.

> All internet accesses are performed using one of two permanently assigned IP addresses.
>
> All DCSF owned internet based websites have fixed permanent IP addresses that are manually assigned when the site is created.

Inside the Department all computers using the DCSF network are allocated IP addresses using dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP). The vast majority of these addresses are generated on demand and are allocated to a device for a maximum period of five days. There are a small number of specialist computers for which we used fixed IP addresses. This is common practice within large organisations.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192111]

Kevin Brennan: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continues to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK. In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented. In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate Departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

The Department's Single Equality Scheme (SES) sets out our commitments for tackling inequality and discrimination, including those to address gender equality. The SES can be accessed here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/des/index.shtml

Educational Psychology

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of educational psychologists required to fulfil the objectives of the Children's Plan. [174594]

Kevin Brennan: As I explained in an earlier reply to question 174595, on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 412W, educational psychologists are employed by local authorities, and it is for those authorities to determine how many to employ in light of their assessment of local needs and available resources.

Families: Disadvantaged

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding *(a)* has been made available and *(b)* is anticipated for the implementation of the proposals in the report Think Family: improving the life chances of families at risk. [194789]

Beverley Hughes: Department for Children, Schools and Families is working on a number of initiatives which will be informed by the Cabinet Office report Think Family: Improving life chances for families at risk. This includes further development of Family Intervention Projects, expansion of Family Nurse Partnerships and expansion of family learning. The Department has specifically made available a total of £16 million funding for implementation of Family Pathfinders and Extended Family Pathfinders for Young Carers as set out in Think Family. This funding has been made available for three years from 2008 to 2011 and will support the testing and development of the "Think Family" model on the ground.

The Social Exclusion Task Force is also driving this agenda forward with commitments from other Government Departments which are set out in the report.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the difference has been in GCSE performance in inner London local authority areas and the rest of England since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [172102]

Jim Knight: The information has been placed in the Library.

The time series provided gives proportion of students achieving 5 GCSE A*-C grades or equivalent and 5 GCSE A*-C grades or equivalent, including English and Mathematics, broken down by local authority.

Pre-School Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people claimed free nursery places in Enfield in each of the last 10 years. [194693]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds is shown in the table.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds. Local authority: Enfield—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total three year olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total four year olds
1998	1,100	n/a	1,100	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,400
1999	1,200	n/a	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,400
2000	1,200	[7]0	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,700
2001	1,200	[7]1,000	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,500
2002	1,300	[7]930	2,200	3,100	[5]560	3,600
2003	1,200	[7]1,100	2,400	3,100	[8]610	3,700
2004	1,300	[9]1,400	2,700	2,900	[10]640	3,500
2005	1,400	[9]1,400	2,800	3,100	[10]490	3,600
2006	1,300	[9]1,500	2,800	3,000	[10]520	3,600
2007	1,400	[9]1,600	2,900	3,100	[10]580	3,700

n/a = Not available.

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] For the years 1997-2001, four year old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what deadlines have been set for each local authority for submitting primary capital programme strategies following the departmental guidance of 6 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [193499]

Jim Knight: All local authorities have been invited to submit an agreed primary strategy for change to the Department by 16 June 2008.

Pupil Exclusions: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils received a (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-term exclusion for an alcohol-related offence in each year since 2001, broken down by age of pupil. [194187]

Kevin Brennan: Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003-04 academic year. Information on exclusions during the 2006-07 academic year is expected to be available in June 2008.

The numbers of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason are published annually by the Department in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England', the latest of which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml.

There are 12 categories describing the various reasons for exclusion, one of which relates to involvement with drugs and alcohol. The available information is provided in the tables. A further breakdown of these figures by age could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion England, 2003-04 and 2004-05

	Drug and alcohol related exclusions			
	Number of permanent exclusions[4]	*Percentage of all permanent exclusions*[4,3]	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusions*[3,3]
2003-04	610	6	12,250	4
2004-05	470	5	11,100	3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.

[3] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.

[4] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by LEAs as part of the Annual Schools Census data checking exercise.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

Maintained secondary schools[1,2]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion, England, 2005-06

	Drug and alcohol related exclusions			
	Number of permanent exclusions[3]	*Percentage of all permanent exclusions*[3,4]	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of all fixed period exclusion*[4]
2005-06	450	6	8,360	2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] For the 2005-06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006-07, information on the reason for exclusion will also be collected from primary and special schools.

[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.

[4] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Hay Fever

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the number of pupils affected by hay fever at (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [194201]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not commissioned or evaluated any research on the number of pupils with hay fever at primary or secondary schools.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has made an estimate of what proportion of the 14 per cent. of children who do not receive two hours PE and school sport are female; [194911]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* girls at girls-only schools, *(b)* boys at boys-only schools, *(c)* girls at mixed schools and *(d)* boys at mixed schools took part in two hours or more of high quality PE and school sport each week; [194912]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the two hours school sport that 86 per cent. of children take part in took place *(a)* within curriculum time and *(b)* out of school hours; [194913]

(4) what percentage of pupils participated in at least two hours of PE and school sport in the *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 school years. [194914]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport. Over the last four years the percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week is as follows:

	Pupils (percentage)
2003/04	62
2004/05	69
2005/06	80
2006/07	86

In 2006/07, 70 per cent. of the pupils received two hours of curriculum PE. The remaining 16 per cent. of pupils participated in a mixture of curriculum PE and additional out of hours school sport to meet the two hours.

The annual PE and School Sport Survey collects data relating to PE and School Sport at a school, rather than pupil level. The 2006/07 survey found that 86 per cent. of pupils at boys only schools were participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport a week. The figures for pupils at girls only schools was 65 per cent.

Schools: Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many school walking bus schemes there are in England; [191700]

(2) how many schools in England have received public funds to help develop or implement walking bus schemes, broken down by local authority area. [191701]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

1,918 schools in England have received Department for Transport funding for 2007-08 and up to two subsequent years to enable them to set up and sustain, or extend, a walking bus scheme. Prior to that there were an estimated 700 walking buses in England. A further 1,335 schools received funding for other initiatives to increase walking to school. We are currently reviewing entitlement to second-year funding. A breakdown of the 1,918 schools by local authority is set out in the table.

Schools awarded funding to enable them to set up and sustain a walking bus by local authority

Local authority	*Number of schools*
Barking and Dagenham	2
Barnet	7
Barnsley	3
Bath and North East Somerset	4
Bedfordshire	13

Schools awarded funding to enable them to set up and sustain a walking bus by local authority

Local authority	*Number of schools*
Bexley	2
Birmingham	36
Blackburn with Darwen	7
Blackpool	2
Bolton	13
Bournemouth	—
Bracknell Forest	—
Bradford	17
Brent	9
Brighton and Hove	5
Bristol City of	9
Bromley	2
Buckinghamshire	15
Bury	11
Calderdale	27
Cambridgeshire	17
Camden	—
Cheshire	16
City of London	1
Cornwall	21
Coventry	10
Croydon	5
Cumbria	29
Darlington	5
Derby	9
Derbyshire	13
Devon	64
Doncaster	8
Dorset	6
Dudley	12
Durham	17
Ealing	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	14
East Sussex	48
Enfield	2
Essex	37
Gateshead	7
Gloucestershire	13
Greenwich	2
Hackney	4
Halton	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	3
Hampshire	43
Haringey	6
Harrow	7
Hartlepool	4
Havering	3
Herefordshire	13
Hertfordshire	72
Hillingdon	2
Hounslow	1
Isle of Wight	2
Isles of Scilly	—
Islington	5
Kensington and Chelsea	—
Kent	63
Kingston upon Hull City of	4
Kingston upon Thames	1
Kirklees	9
Knowsley	14
Lambeth	10
Lancashire	45
Leeds	43
Leicester	5
Leicestershire	27
Lewisham	11
Lincolnshire	30
Liverpool	12
Luton	6
Manchester	22
Medway	18
Merton	—
Middlesbrough	—
Milton Keynes	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	—
Newham	4
Norfolk	19
North East Lincolnshire	3
North Lincolnshire	4
North Somerset	10
North Tyneside	1
North Yorkshire	45
Northamptonshire	16
Northumberland	8
Nottingham	5
Nottinghamshire	32
Oldham	8
Oxfordshire	16
Peterborough	5
Plymouth	18
Poole	5
Portsmouth	1
Reading	—
Redbridge	2
Redcar and Cleveland	7
Richmond upon Thames	2
Rochdale	14
Rotherham	11
Rutland	1
Salford	13
Sandwell	12
Sefton	21
Sheffield	49
Shropshire	22
Slough	19
Solihull	19
Somerset	17
South Gloucestershire	5
South Tyneside	2
Southampton	6
Southend-on-Sea	28
Southwark	2
St. Helens	6
Staffordshire	50
Stockport	10
Stockton-on-Tees	3
Stoke-on-Trent	9
Suffolk	22
Sunderland	1
Surrey	36

Schools awarded funding to enable them to set up and sustain a walking bus by local authority

Local authority	*Number of schools*
Sutton	6
Swindon	7
Tameside	9
Telford and Wrekin	13
Thurrock	3
Torbay	15
Tower Hamlets	2
Trafford	7
Wakefield	17
Walsall	10
Waltham Forest	1
Wandsworth	2
Warrington	9
Warwickshire	12
West Berkshire	15
West Sussex	71
Westminster	—
Wigan	9
Wiltshire	21
Windsor and Maidenhead	4
Wirral	17
Wokingham	1
Wolverhampton	7
Worcestershire	30
York	8

Secondary Education: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the key stage 3 results were for each London secondary school in 2007; and what the percentage change on results in 2006 was in each case, broken down by type of school and the classification of the school. [193058]

Jim Knight: The national 2007 Key Stage 3 results were published on 27 February 2008. The attached table contains Key Stage 3 level 5+ results for English, maths and science for secondary maintained mainstream schools in London.

Special Educational Needs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on statementing children with special needs. [194227]

Kevin Brennan: Under the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a duty, where necessary, to assess children's special educational needs (SEN) and draw up SEN statements. The Government provide statutory guidance in the SEN code of practice to help local authorities fulfil that duty. The Government expect every child who needs a statement to have their SEN met will receive one. Our SEN strategy 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' set out a programme to improve SEN provision in schools with the result that more children can have their special educational needs met fully without requiring a statement. However, the Government have maintained parents' rights, under the Education Act 1996, to request a statutory assessment of their children's SEN, with a view to statements being drawn up, and to appeal refusals to assess and statement to the SEN and Disability Tribunal.

Young People: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of youth inclusion support panels and youth inclusion panels in preventing crime. [193852]

Beverley Hughes: An evaluation by the University of Newcastle, published in October 2007, concluded that YISPs improved the mental health and school results of the young participants, and making them less likely to get into trouble.

The independent evaluation of phase 1 of the Youth Inclusion Programme (2000-03), carried out Morgan Harris Burrows, Consultants, found that after young people's engagement on the programme the majority of the core group of young people were being arrested less frequently, and for less serious offences. The Phase 2 evaluation 2004-06 is due to be published in April this year.

The University of York's Prevention Cohort Study, which is looking at a sample of young people who are receiving services from YJB funded prevention programmes, has delivered its interim progress report to the Youth Justice Board but is not due to present its final report until 2010.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Community Champions Scheme: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of organisations which have been in receipt of Community Champions funding who will not receive any similar funding from the financial year 2008-09 onwards; and if he will make a statement. [192036]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Community Champions Fund support is provided to individuals, not organisations. It is delivered through the nine Government offices (GOs) in England. Each GO is allocated a budget according to the number of long-term unemployed (six months or more) 18 to 65-year-olds in the region. The GOs deliver the funding through locally contracted intermediary organisations. These promote the programme, support and receive applications, in conjunction with the GOs undertake selection, and administer accounts for individual payments. Up to 15 per cent. of the allocated budget can be drawn on by the intermediaries to administer the fund.

Voluntary Organisations: Learning Disability

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department is taking to support third sector organisations which provide support services for users with serious learning disabilities. [193950]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health supports such third sector bodies in a number of ways. Funding is given to voluntary sector organisations through the section 64 Grants scheme. There has been significant funding from the valuing people budget for advocacy including advocacy for people with high learning disability support needs.

In some very specific areas, Government Departments are already providing funding for advocacy, for example, in order to build capacity in learning disability focused and older people's services and to meet legislative commitments.

Funding has been provided to some third sector organisations to support provision of homes for people coming out of the national health service campus accommodation for people with learning disabilities, which the Government are committed to close by the end of the decade. The Department is leading work to build the capacity of user-led organisations of disabled people, including those with learning disabilities, family and informal carers and other people who use support. The aim is to promote independent living with a range of services being provided by user-led organisations.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts, *(c)* warnings, *(d)* individual support plans, *(e)* action plan orders, *(f)* child safety orders, *(g)* referral orders, *(h)* parenting orders, *(i)* parenting contracts, *(j)* local child curfew schemes, *(k)* dispersal powers, *(l)* fixed penalty notices for disorderly behaviour, *(m)* detention and training orders, *(n)* seizure of vehicles used antisocially, *(o)* closure of licensed premises, *(p)* confiscation of alcohol from young people and *(q)* designated public places orders have been used in each (i) local authority and (ii) police authority area, broken down by basic command unit, in each region of England and Wales in each year since the introduction of the powers. [176314]

Maria Eagle: The information requested that is available has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Information on the number of acceptable behaviour contracts are not centrally held by my Department. Information on the number of Child Safety Orders issued are not collected centrally. This order only applies to children under 10 years of age. It can be applied to a child who has committed an offence, has breached a Child Curfew or has caused harassment, distress or alarm to others.

No local child curfew scheme has yet been set up under the powers which were provided by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Sections 48 and 49 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 enables the police to seize a vehicle they reasonably believe is being driven in a way that both contravenes s3 or 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and is causing or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance. Information on the number of vehicles seized by the police under this provision is not collected centrally.

Information on the closure of licensed premises is the province of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). They have told me that they do not hold information on every individual local authority area in England and Wales.

No information is currently held centrally by the DCMS concerning closure notices and closure orders made under sections 160 or 169A of the Licensing Act 2003; under section 40 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003; or under sections 19 and 21 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

However information is available on the number of closures made by the police under section 161 of the Licensing Act 2003. There were 44 closure orders made by senior police officers between April 2006 and March 2007 based on returns from 85 per cent of licensing authorities.

A small scale Confiscation of Alcohol Campaign took place between 8 October—5 November (with particular focus on the school half term holiday, Halloween and bonfire night). 23 police Basic Command Units took part in the campaign with over 3,700 litres of alcohol confiscated.

Designated public places orders are the responsibility of the Home Office and they have informed me they do not collect information centrally on how Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) areas are enforced by the police. For example, the number of PNDs issued; prosecutions or numbers of individuals who comply with a police constable's request to refrain from consuming alcohol.

The Home Office have been notified of 545 DPPOs introduced since they came into force on 1 September 2001.

Bail

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants on bail between pleading guilty or being found guilty and sentence subsequently failed to attend court for sentencing in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* Crown Court and *(b)* magistrates' court. [194288]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by contacting each court and manually collating at a disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Liability Orders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many committal hearings were held in magistrates' courts for non-payment of council tax in each of the last two years for which information is available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area; [194351]

(2) how many liability orders were issued by magistrates' courts in each of the last two years for which information is available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area; and what their value was in each year. [194352]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided by contacting each magistrates court and manually collating at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191484]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

The Ministry of Justice has a target to deliver at least 3 per cent. value for money savings each year and a 5 per cent. reduction in administration budgets each year, and work is currently ongoing to ensure that the Department establishes efficiency measures to achieve these. Results of savings measures across the organisation will be published through the Value for Money programme throughout the CSR period.

Departmental Equality

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who has lead responsibility for diversity issues in his Department. [194141]

Mr. Wills: I am the Minister with lead responsibility for departmental equalities and diversity issues. However, policy issues are considered in conjunction with my ministerial colleagues where these relate to their areas of responsibility, for example in relation to the courts or the prison service.

In addition my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) is supported in his drive to achieve greater diversity in the judiciary and legal professions by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice).

The Permanent Secretary, supported by the Departmental Corporate Management Board, is responsible for ensuring that the Department is compliant with the duties on it as a public body under the equalities legislation.

There is a strong commitment in the Department to delivering on the Civil Service 10 Point Plan, which aims to improve the delivery of services for everyone in society through achieving a truly diverse civil service workforce at all levels. We are keen to be an employer of choice, attracting applicants from all sections of society and providing for all our staff opportunities to maximise their potential.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how he will ensure that his Department's policy on diversity is implemented at local level in both the probation and prison services. [194142]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has recently developed its own draft equality and diversity policy, which is due to be published shortly, and which reinforces its duties as an employer, commissioner and provider of services. An Equality and Diversity Taskforce is in place with the remit to monitor delivery of the equality and diversity action plan, which includes implementation of the policy in prisons and probation areas.

Her Majesty's Prison Service has published a separate race equality scheme, and updates the action plan on an annual basis. Action in prisons in relation to race equality is routinely monitored and is subject to regular audit.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1711-2W, on departmental redundancies, what the cost of redundancies in the Prison Service was in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [194511]

Maria Eagle: There have been no centrally run involuntary redundancy schemes. Individual cases would be managed locally and there is no requirement to report this information to the Prison Service Headquarters. To gather this data would require approaching all Prison Service establishments.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many security passes of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its departmental agencies were reported (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each year since 2001. [195036]

Mr. Wills: The figures are set out in the following tables:

	(i) lost passes	
	(a) Department	*(b) agencies*
2001	no record	no record
2002	no record	26
2003	46	75
2004	103	119
2005	131	136
2006	113	131
2007	45	127

	(ii) stolen passes	
	(a) Department	*(b) agencies*
2001	no record	no record
2002	no record	5
2003	7	16
2004	12	34
2005	14	21
2006	6	19
2007	7	9

Driving Under Influence: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions for drink driving there were in (i) Easington constituency and (ii) the County of Durham in each year since 2002. [194125]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection held by my Department covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by main offence group (e.g.

violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, etc.) and police force area within England and Wales. Information on summary motoring offences including those of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Available information held on prosecutions and findings of guilt for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2002 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year. The data provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

Information is available at police force area level only.

Prosecutions at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1]*, within Durham police force area, 2002 to 2005*

		Number of offences
	Proceedings	Findings of guilt
2002	1,247	1,136
2003	1,278	1,170
2004	1,338	1,277
2005	1,249	1,168

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were sentenced to a period in custody for drug-related offences involving bringing the drug into the UK on their person in each of the last five years. [194144]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to identify separately on the Court Proceedings Database offences involving the unlawful importation of a controlled drug by bringing the drug into the country on their person as the circumstances of the offence are not collected centrally.

Information on numbers sentenced to immediate custody for the unlawful importation of a controlled drug in the last five years for which annual published statistics are available is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons sentencedl for the unlawful importation of a controlled drug, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06, England and Wales

										Number of persons
	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Offence description	No. sentenced	Immediate custody	No. sentenced	Immediate custody	No. sentenced	Immediate custody	No. sentenced	Immediate custody	No. sentenced	Immediate custody
Offences in relation to the unlawful importation of a drug controlled under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971[2]	1,680	1,488	1,127	1,075	1,026	997	1,030	979	846	787

[1] Principal offence basis. [2] Includes Class A, Class B, Class C and where Class of drug is unknown. *Note:* These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Source: RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice 11 March 2008 Ref. AHA 118-08.

Elections: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a right for candidates to request a manual recount of ballot papers in elections where electronic counting equipment is used. [194396]

Bridget Prentice: The current rules for local, Greater London Assembly and parliamentary elections specify (whether e-counting is used or not) that a candidate may require the returning officer to have the votes re-counted but that the returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable. At the GLA elections in May 2008, where e-counting equipment is to be used, the returning officer has been given the discretion to determine the extent to which any re-count involves manual or electronic counting. I have no plans to bring forward any specific proposals in regard to e-counting at this time but I will keep the issue under review.

Electoral Register: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what date he expects the CORE database to be fully operational. [194395]

Bridget Prentice: We are continuing to make progress on the CORE project. On 29 February 2008 the Electoral Commission made a recommendation that the Secretary of State issue a Direction to implement data standards across England, Wales and Scotland by 1 December 2009. This is a significant step towards the realisation of CORE. However, a launch date for the CORE Information System cannot be confirmed until the CORE keeper has been appointed. The Electoral Commission is the preferred choice to fulfil this role.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure has been incurred by his Department or its predecessor on the ministerial flat in Admiralty House occupied by Lord Falconer after Lord Falconer ceased using the flat; and for what purpose. [194770]

Mr. Straw: None.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed in the National Offender Management Service in the *(a)* Community Reintegration Team, *(b)* Intensive Interventions Team, *(c)* Attitude Thinking and Behaviour Team, *(d)* Performance Area Coordination Unit, *(e)* Prospects Unit, *(f)* Performance Improvement Unit, *(g)* Performance Management Unit and *(h)* Enforcement Improvement Team; what the primary responsibilities of each unit are; and how each unit is monitored for value for money. [194093]

Maria Eagle: The number of staff employed in each of the National Offender Management Service teams and their primary responsibilities are as follows:

(a) Community reintegration team: 12

The work of the community reintegration team is (i) to develop and oversee policy on unpaid work for offenders under community supervision (ii) to support probation areas in their work with offenders under community supervision to help them develop their "skills for life" and gain access to vocational learning and employment; and (iii) to support implementation and monitor probation area performance against targets.

(b) Intensive interventions team: six

The work of the intensive interventions team is to (i) develop and set operational policy (ii) provide/co-ordinate central operational support to probation areas and prisons (iii) and influence wider Government strategy on the substance misuse needs of offenders under community supervision, the Intensive Alternatives to Custody programme and the correctional services' contribution to the Prolific and Priority Offender programme.

(c) Attitude and behaviour team: 23

The work of the attitude, thinking and behaviour team is to develop and oversee policy on community based offending behaviour programmes. OBPs are designed to teach new skills and change behaviour to help people avoid reoffending and are recommended either by the court as an additional requirement for offenders sentenced to a community disposal or for those being released from custody on license. All programmes are accredited by a panel of experts to agreed standards and the effectiveness and implementation of programmes is constantly evaluated.

(d) Probation area coordination unit: 25

The probation area coordination unit is responsible for:

1. The recruitment and human resources management of the 42 Probation Service chief officers and board chairs.

2. The development of human resources policies, and the effective implementation of these policies, in relation to training and development, health and safety, pay and reward, and workload measurement. The unit liaises with the Probation Boards' Association, the employers' organisation, and negotiates with Probation Service Trade Unions on pay, reward and conditions of service for Probation Service staff.

(e) Prospects unit: nine soon to reduce to three

The prospects unit managed the delivery of the Prospects programme, which comprised of six separate projects commissioned from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Prospects was a pilot programme originally aimed at drug-using offenders serving short term prison sentences who become abstinent in custody and entered into voluntary support on release, initially in a hostel and then in move-on accommodation.

(f) Performance Improvement Team: 11

Primary responsibilities:

The Unit is charged with improving performance and developing capability. They operate a performance improvement framework through which they deliver services which range from internal consultancy and support to direct intervention in underperforming probation areas. They develop and disseminate best practice advice and are also responsible for a range of nationally led improvement projects.

(g) Performance management unit: 38

The performance management unit is responsible for developing a single performance management system for the whole of NOMS that better reflects the key challenges of reducing re-offending and protecting the public. It is also responsible for collecting, auditing and analysing the data that underpins this system, and reporting on performance to Ministers and the NOMS board. It will provide, where necessary, the challenge to prisons and probation to improve performance. It will also develop a system for performance testing in prisons and probation, and is responsible for the policy on standards, performance measurement and compliance.

(h) Enforcement Improvement team: six

Primary Responsibilities

Provides support to the Director of Probation as the SRO for Community Penalty Enforcement programme and chair of the community penalty enforcement group which is one strand of the cross—CJS Enforcement programme which reports to the NCJB. Monitors, manages and reports performance information for the LCJB end to end community Penalty enforcement group. Regular reports to a variety of boards.

Each unit measures performance against their own internal business plan and the wider NOMS business plan.

Prisoners

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are held at each *(a)* public sector prison and *(b)* privately managed prison in England and Wales; and how many were held in each category in each of the last five years. [194121]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of prisoners held in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 31 January 2008 (the most recent figures available) and at 30 June each year since 2003.

	June 2003	*June 2004*	*June 2005*	*June 2006*	*June 2007*	*January 2008*
Public sector prisons: males						
Acklington	835	861	871	844	844	865
Albany	500	504	515	525	520	507
Ashwell	535	517	540	537	539	534
Aylesbury	346	360	425	442	441	432
Bedford	468	489	465	484	468	488
Belmarsh	884	915	896	924	910	925
Birmingham	942	1,394	1,418	1,440	1,450	1,461
Blakenhurst	879	877	1,055	1,061	1,058	1,074
Blantyre House	121	117	117	119	121	118
Blundestone	458	454	464	461	463	459
Brinsford	432	441	444	473	473	449
Bristol	587	563	595	605	585	607
Brixton	804	820	805	801	791	805
Brockhill	—	—	—	—	162	162
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	378	383	375
Bullingdon	960	955	964	966	955	965
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	16	181	191
Camp Hill	537	559	587	581	595	589
Canterbury	287	310	309	282	278	301
Cardiff	682	672	749	758	745	757
Castington	273	367	352	385	386	364
Channings Wood	613	651	661	659	657	715
Chelmsford	597	560	574	580	690	695
Coldingley	389	376	385	390	388	387
Dartmoor	602	606	620	615	627	627
Deerbolt	426	466	434	407	417	441
Dorchester	253	219	241	248	241	232
Dover	295	244	287	249	299	301
Durham	605	592	675	855	950	950
Edmunds Hill	—	—	157	351	360	341
Elmley	995	916	982	985	977	980
Erlestoke	390	419	421	421	424	408
Everthorpe	449	466	469	658	665	676
Exeter	520	521	522	499	481	479
Featherstone	611	606	612	610	613	673
Feltham	639	637	608	604	599	583
Ford	524	515	518	382	464	494
Frankland	656	670	710	707	725	721
Full Sutton	605	600	593	573	586	602
Garth	654	652	639	605	614	749
Gartree	282	409	442	473	574	575
Glen Parva	766	701	785	799	813	812
Gloucester	290	305	281	311	276	300
Grendon/Spring Hill	536	518	524	530	530	528
Guys Marsh	557	563	558	564	570	562
Haslar	138	97	107	142	121	124
Haverigg	558	545	541	563	563	577
Hewell Grange	172	164	170	157	167	176
Highdown	735	753	742	741	740	932
Highpoint South	691	801	799	811	806	796
Hindley	527	476	403	418	502	489
Hollesley Bay	281	268	293	233	298	325
Holme House	992	920	967	986	972	1,003
Hull	1,038	1,051	1,032	980	1,023	1,032
Huntercombe	265	346	340	356	359	358

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	January 2008
Kennet	—	—	—	—	20	310
Kingston/Portsmouth)	186	137	193	193	199	198
Kirkham	523	530	549	399	514	448
Kirklevington	223	222	221	218	222	222
Lancaster	237	226	241	242	227	171
Lancaster Farms	464	482	521	518	530	484
Latchmere House	189	196	203	182	206	197
Leeds	1,244	1,239	1,241	1,170	996	996
Leicester	386	385	336	344	348	342
Lewes	487	482	527	536	522	529
Leyhill	500	496	484	321	411	381
Lincoln	454	456	469	484	645	705
Lindholme	736	671	808	834	982	1,053
Littlehey	655	691	699	695	699	699
Liverpool	1,446	1,390	1,363	1,325	1,329	1,388
Long Lartin	433	436	443	437	443	402
Maidstone	541	542	547	584	582	468
Manchester	1,266	1,209	1,227	1,239	1,218	1,218
Moorland	772	761	746	768	779	778
Moorland Open	249	242	238	239	242	248
North Sea Camp	292	284	290	269	272	281
Northallerton	221	222	196	218	249	242
Norwich	704	728	781	760	567	518
Nottingham	545	511	505	513	528	551
Onley	543	500	505	576	618	626
Parkhurst	496	498	511	508	522	487
Pentonville	1,185	1,190	1,188	1,139	1,142	1,134
Portland	433	462	392	479	542	537
Preston	667	628	603	674	707	728
Ranby	783	847	1,028	1,032	1,018	1,017
Reading	244	256	291	283	262	259
Risley	1,066	1,061	1,066	1,064	1,082	1,082
Rochester	164	304	391	388	387	391
Shepton Mallet	185	185	187	185	187	179
Shrewsbury	348	299	293	340	326	324
Stafford	629	670	678	671	675	671
Standford Hill	447	445	450	398	405	427
Stocken	618	614	613	613	624	733
Stoke Heath	611	648	624	663	673	560
Sudbury	516	550	525	545	533	533
Swaleside	773	770	772	777	778	772
Swansea	360	336	418	425	412	426
Swinfen Hall	312	417	581	606	619	612
The Mount	761	743	696	716	717	753
The Verne	585	568	585	582	592	592
The Weare	392	368	202	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	182	252	234	205	240	211
Usk/Prescoed	384	415	418	416	417	397
Wakefield	566	553	549	718	744	743
Wandsworth	1,474	1,456	1,433	1,454	1,473	1,475
Warren Hill	190	215	211	216	212	212
Wayland	700	697	697	691	699	696
Wealstun	620	585	777	781	800	763
Wellingborough	516	504	539	604	636	637
Werrington	113	138	134	155	146	126
Wetherby	329	286	342	338	354	345
Whatton	352	353	353	748	759	818
Whitemoor	414	416	438	432	463	454
Winchester	562	647	691	710	540	543
Woodhill	757	748	759	772	828	823
Wormwood Scrubs	1,193	1,254	1,239	1,242	1,243	1,261
Wymott	841	1,009	1,039	1,040	1,057	1,057

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	January 2008
Public sector prisons: females						
Askham Grange	122	130	87	110	109	96
Brockhill	155	142	126	42	—	—
Buckley Hall	308	313	343	187	—	—
Bullwood Hall	163	166	146	344	—	—
Cookham Wood	143	138	164	1	180	—
Downview	212	210	238	274	342	346
Dover	—	—	—	88	—	—
Drake Hall	303	293	274	349	231	310
Durham	107	94	6	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	99	95	96	236	100	91
Eastwood Park	286	286	278	458	339	334
Edmunds Hill	—	231	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	224	221	221	262	228	268
Highpoint North	293	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	465	458	430	353	451	473
Low Newton	268	311	282	335	233	301
Morton Hall	347	347	311	212	315	351
New Hall	374	336	278	448	356	421
Send	216	218	217	—	195	208
Styal	426	400	385	—	433	438
Winchester	84	—	—	—	—	—
Contracted prisons						
Altcourse	1,006	1,002	898	1,008	1,099	1,307
Ashfield	312	310	310	357	385	355
Doncaster	1,116	1,100	1,039	1,114	1,126	1,148
Dovegate	852	842	787	823	838	840
Forest Bank	1,013	1,008	1,035	1,053	1,047	1,123
Lowdham Grange	524	517	487	527	660	674
Parc	1,002	1,010	961	1,049	1,112	1,124
Peterborough (men)	—	—	323	480	559	624
Rye Hill	649	660	595	593	646	593
The Wolds	343	354	298	297	378	366
Bronzefield (women)	—	63	421	432	444	437
Peterborough (women)	—	—	211	332	327	360
Total prison population	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	79,734	80,892

The aforementioned table is drawn from (a) F1032 tables, copies of which are held in the House of Commons Library, for data from 2003 to 2005 and (b) published monthly tables, for more recent data, which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received student loans in each of the last five years. [189290]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, made a Statement to the House on 7 February. In it he stated that he would endeavour to make further relevant information available to the House prior to any debate on the revised regulations.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held at each women's prison in England and Wales; and how many were being held in each of the last five years. [194120]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of female prisoners in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at (a) 31 January 2008 (the most recent figures available) and (b) 30 June in each of the last five years:

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	January 2008
Askham Grange	122	130	87	110	109	96
Brockhill	155	142	126	42	—	—

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	January 2008
Bronzefield	—	63	421	432	444	437
Buckley Hall	308	313	343	—	—	—
Bullwood Hall	163	166	146	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	143	138	164	187	180	—
Downview	212	210	238	344	342	346
Drake Hall	303	293	274	274	231	310
Durham	107	94	6	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	99	95	96	88	100	91
Eastwood Park	286	286	278	349	339	334
Edmunds Hill	—	231	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	224	221	221	236	228	268
Highpoint North	293	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	465	458	430	458	451	473
Low Newton	268	311	282	262	233	301
Morton Hall	347	347	311	353	315	351
New Hall	374	336	278	335	356	421
Peterborough	—	—	211	332	327	360
Send	216	218	217	212	195	208
Styal	426	400	385	448	433	438
Winchester	84	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4,595	4,452	4,514	4,463	4,283	4,434

Note:
During this period, seven of the prisons (Brockhill, Buckley Hall, Bullwood Hall, Cookham Wood, Durham, Edmunds Hill (formerly Highpoint North) and Winchester) changed function to accommodate male prisoners. This was to assist in the management of population pressures in the male estate.

The aforementioned table is drawn from (a) F1032 tables, copies of which are held in the House of Commons Library, for data from 2003 to 2005 and (b) published monthly tables, for more recent data, which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Muslims

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1213W, on prisoners: Muslims, what the scheme is called; and what public funding is allocated to it in 2007-08. [181925]

Maria Eagle: The project is a mentoring scheme to help re-settle Muslim offenders into the community.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers are employed at each *(a)* public sector prison and *(b)* privately managed prison in England and Wales; and how many were employed in each category in each of the last five years. [194123]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of officer grade staff at each public sector and privately managed Prison Service establishment on 31 January 2008 is contained in the following tables.

Full-time-equivalent prison officers, senior officers and principal officers in public sector establishments—as at 31 January 2008

Establishment	*Officer grades*
Acklington	242
Albany	143
Ashwell	103
Askham Grange	29
Aylesbury	180
Bedford	147
Belmarsh	518
Birmingham	511
Blakenhurst	252
Blantyre House	35
Blundestone	148
Brinsford	240
Bristol	218
Brixton	219
Brockhill	72
Buckley Hall	105
Bullingdon	242
Bullwood Hall	80
Camp Hill	160
Canterbury	103
Cardiff	246
Castington	220
Channings Wood	171
Chelmsford	226
Coldingley	92
Cookham Wood	84
Dartmoor	165
Deerbolt	184
Dorchester	105
Dover	122
Downview	116
Drake Hall	84
Durham	325
East Sutton Park	18
Eastwood Park	158

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Full-time-equivalent prison officers, senior officers and principal officers in public sector establishments—as at 31 January 2008

Establishment	*Officer grades*
Edmunds Hill	125
Erlestoke	124
Everthorpe	174
Exeter	178
Featherstone	154
Feltham	400
Ford	61
Foston Hall	144
Frankland	588
Full Sutton	462
Garth	283
Gartree	202
Glen Parva	257
Gloucester	121
Grendon	141
Guys Marsh	135
Haslar	54
Haverigg	137
He well Grange	30
High Down	244
Highpoint	188
Hindley	221
Hollesley Bay	52
Holloway	260
Holme House	304
Hull	324
Huntercombe	151
Kennet	141
Kingston	75
Kirkham	93
Kirklevington Grange	46
Lancaster	86
Lancaster Farms	246
Latchmere House	35
Leeds	378
Leicester	134
Lewes	172
Leyhill	70
Lincoln	205
Lindholme	243
Littlehey	159
Liverpool	408
Long Lartin	354
Low Newton	152
Maidstone	150
Manchester	495
Moorland	325
Morton Hall	112
New Hall	211
North Sea Camp	56
Northallerton	64
Norwich	201
Nottingham	217
Onley	192
Parkhurst	179
Pentonville	362
Portland	207
Preston	258
Ranby	267
Reading	111
Risley	290
Rochester	178
Send	77
Sheppey Cluster	615
Shepton Mallet	63
Shrewsbury	106
Stafford	170
Stocken	177
Stoke Heath	250
Styal	188
Sudbury	66
Swansea	149
Swinfen Hall	202
The Mount	175
The Verne	109
Thorn Cross	115
Usk/Prescoed	88
Wakefield	441
Wandsworth	390
Warren Hill	139
Wayland	207
Wealstun	195
Wellingborough	175
Werrington	84
Wetherby	173
Whatton	211
Whitemoor	436
Winchester	182
Woodhill	423
Wormwood Scrubs	321
Wymott	269
All establishments	24,634

Full-time-equivalent prison custody officers and senior prison custody officers in private sector establishments—as at 31 January 2008

Establishment	*Officer grades*
Ashfield	177
Altcourse	342
Bronzefield	175
Doncaster	267
Dovegate	169
Forest Bank	212
Lowdham Grange	173
Parc	279
Peterborough	344
Rye Hill	148
Wolds	110
Total	2,396

Information on the total number of officers employed within each sector over the past five years is contained in the following table.

Officer grade staff by sector, 2003 to 2007

As at 31 March	*Public sector*	*Private sector*
2003[1]	23,129	260
2004[2]	23,735	1,431
2005[3]	23,875	2,034

Officer grade staff by sector, 2003 to 2007

As at 31 March	*Public sector*	*Private sector*
2006	24,111	2,197
2007	24,273	2,356

[1] Information available from only one out of nine privately managed establishments.

[2] Information not available from two out of nine privately managed establishments.

[3] Information not available from one out of 11 privately managed establishments.

Prisons: Smuggling

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* drug finds and *(b)* mobile phone finds there were in each prison in each of the last five years. [194289]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of *(a)* drug related incidents, and *(b)* centrally reported mobile phone finds is contained in the following table.

Drug related incidents include: finds of drugs; finds of drug implements and indications from drug dog searches. It is not possible to distinguish between these drug-related incidents without examining each record of every incident which would incur disproportionate cost. Information on mobile phone finds reflects the number of mobile phones and SIM cards sent to Prison Service headquarters for analysis by establishments. There are no other centrally held figures on mobile phone finds. To survey each prison establishment for this information would incur disproportionate cost.

	Drug related incidents[1]					*Mobile Phones/SIMS*[1]	
Establishment	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
HMP Altcourse	75	130	126	99	130	—	—
HMP Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
HMP Acklington	17	23	39	76	62	—	—
HMP Albany	3	1	—	1	2	—	—
HMYOI Ashfield	22	12	5	5	9	—	—
HMP Ashwell	44	20	28	13	11	9	3
HMYOI Aylesbury	5	4	4	3	2	17	22
HMP Belmarsh	5	4	7	7	16	94	65
HMP Buckley Hall	41	48	35	142	85	9	41
HMP Blundeston	17	28	29	29	27	52	47
HMP Bedford	30	24	28	32	40	31	23
HMP Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
HMP Brockhill	13	9	32	16	3	2	7
HMP Bristol	23	43	66	30	27	28	46
HMP Birmingham	82	17	31	30	27	26	17
HMP Bullingdon	10	35	30	19	45	27	25
HMRC Brinsford	30	68	49	28	8	11	32
HMP Blakenhurst	74	53	85	123	126	27	100
HMP Bullwood Hall	—	—	1	—	4	3	—
HMP Brixton	5	8	5	7	14		83
HMP Bronzefield	—	21	57	40	40	—	—
HMP Chelmsford	32	39	62	56	42	20	5
HMP Cardiff	22	19	32	48	12	14	29
HMP Camp Hill	19	63	54	47	43	—	10
HMP Cookham Wood	3	2	—	1	—	—	12
HMP Coldingley	7	7	1	7	4	9	17
HMYOI Castington	11	7	2	23	21	—	1
HMP Channings Wood	5	13	24	60	36	2	58
HMP Canterbury	13	26	28	15	1	20	10
HMP Dartmoor	6	9	18	14	4	19	40
HMP Dovegate	53	33	83	63	57	49	—
HMP Drake Hall	13	—	13	5	13	3	—
HMP Durham	102	81	167	172	187	7	22
HMP Doncaster	15	20	12	15	22	15	—
HMP Dorchester	12	6	5	9	19	30	9
HMYOI Deerbolt	11	1	5	14	12	—	6
HMYOI Dover	3	1	4	9	55	3	4
HMP Downview	10	7	3	—	—	2	9
HMP Erlestoke	3	2	25	16	20	37	74
HMP Edmunds Hill	14	33	19	30	38	2	60
HMP East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
HMRC Everthorpe	30	17	23	29	34	11	1
HMYOI Eastwood Park	2	4	—	—	1	3	7
HMP Exeter	89	65	60	65	68	10	16

	Drug related incidents[1]					Mobile Phones/SIMS[1]	
Establishment	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
HMP Elmley	46	73	70	25	99	23	33
HMP Forest Bank	366	402	549	485	351	57	—
HMP Ford	2	88	162	140	128	26	25
HMP Foston Hall	15	37	29	5	18	—	—
HMP Frankland	28	23	23	37	20	8	29
HMRC Feltham	143	90	77	95	54	—	—
HMP Full Sutton	11	6	10	5	2	33	22
HMP Featherstone	45	74	55	46	42	14	14
HMP Garth	51	109	96	103	106	54	24
HMP Gloucester	41	36	22	32	32	5	33
HMYOI Guys Marsh	8	8	8	25	44	56	15
HMP Grendon/Spring Hill	8	—	1	1	1	70	42
HMRC Glen Parva	41	14	36	44	40	4	28
HMP Gartree	6	3	7	4	4	10	25
HMYOI Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMYOI Huntercombe	—	1	0	4	0	—	1
HMP Moorland Open	10	16	23	15	6	—	28
HMYOI Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—	—	5	56
HMP Holme House	73	85	191	98	167	3	22
HMP Hollesley Bay	60	33	22	19	22	4	79
HMRC Hindley	61	30	19	12	14	1	34
HMP Hull	51	52	48	53	53	19	66
HMP High Down	4	10	2	5	4	14	—
HMP Highpoint	95	117	134	110	130	81	231
HMP Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMP Haverigg	38	38	47	92	80	26	26
HMP Holloway	22	19	11	2	10	—	—
HMP Kirkham	8	5	77	86	89	12	122
HMP Kingston/Portsmouth	2	1	2	4	5	12	—
HMP Kennet	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
HMYOI Kirklevington	—	—	1	9	14	6	24
HMP Lancaster	28	35	51	21	5	16	5
HMP Leicester	32	42	67	70	90	12	38
HMP Leeds	59	46	39	29	19	52	48
HMP Lancaster Farms	33	18	12	19	11	—	18
HMP Lowdham Grange	26	50	57	136	213	1	—
HMP Lindholme	73	47	42	88	63	7	12
HMP Lincoln	63	57	80	35	61	30	29
HMP Long Lartin	3	7	16	43	27	71	96
HMRC Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HMRC Low Newton	46	111	125	178	167	1	—
HMP Liverpool	253	246	54	7	49	56	59
HMP Littlehey	7	8	3	1	2	4	11
HMP Lewes	37	53	69	77	124	45	40
HMP Leyhill	2	4	49	55	92	12	43
HMRC Moorland Closed	63	68	69	83	96	17	19
HMP Morton Hall	4	—	3	10	4	14	1
HMP Manchester	180	228	157	106	116	62	75
HMP Maidstone	13	12	25	34	36	32	25
HMP The Mount	13	32	52	93	101	87	47
HMYOI Nothallerton	9	8	7	1	12	1	13
HMP New Hall	5	6	22	25	46	4	1
HMP North Sea Camp	20	14	16	6	13	48	58
HMRC Norwich	111	65	88	77	42	11	35
HMP Nottingham	19	44	33	45	39	21	48
HMYOI Onley	12	11	20	44	55	6	23
HMP Peterborough	—	—	32	88	86	41	—
HMYOI Portland	13	12	4	18	21	—	—
HMP Parkhurst	5	2	3	1	4	38	—
HMP Preston	57	36	68	135	171	—	32
HMP Pare	79	91	109	74	63	6	—
HMP Pentonville	76	123	140	70	75	—	195
HMRC Rochester	12	17	12	10	15	2	6
HMP Reading	7	—	—	1	1	—	1

	Drug related incidents[1]					Mobile Phones/SIMS[1]	
Establishment	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
HMP Rye Hill	6	5	2	91	40	—	—
HMP Ranby	11	6	3	11	18	21	4
HMP Risley	172	188	202	146	174	14	45
HMP Send	1	2	2	2	—	—	4
HMP Standford Hill	2	14	27	20	7	15	28
HMP Stafford	34	43	66	16	54	16	21
HMRC Stoke Heath	6	7	6	22	28	10	3
HMP Stocken	9	12	21	11	10	22	7
HMP Swaleside	8	7	1	3	8	32	123
HMP Shepton Mallet	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
HMYOI Swinfen Hall	13	18	8	1	1	30	31
HMP Styal	94	132	66	73	60	8	6
HMP Sudbury	42	25	73	50	86	11	1
HMRC Swansea	2	3	35	5	2	4	3
HMP Shrewsbury	39	70	30	32	18	7	—
HMYOI Thorn Cross	12	1	1	9	7	20	2
HMP Usk	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
HMP The Verne	15	15	9	6	5	3	9
HMP The Weare	26	23	1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
HMYOI Wellingborough	10	22	73	69	57	24	11
HMP Winchester	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
HMP Wakefield	—	1	—	2	1	2	2
HMP Wealstun	7	20	36	22	5	1	9
HMP Woodhill	3	2	—	—	11	23	57
HMP Warren Hill	12	14	30	13	5	—	—
HMP Wayland	26	29	28	15	18	23	51
HMP Wymott	53	50	72	54	67	1	24
HMYOI Werrington	1	—	—	1	—	2	6
HMRC Wolds	66	85	36	73	128	2	—
HMP Whitemoor	7	3	4	2	14	11	42
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	116	173	223	104	81	136	197
HMP Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
HMP Wandsworth	45	65	38	22	21	—	31
HMYOI Wetherby	14	10	21	9	4	3	5

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Probation: Finance

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ensure that funding for probation services is ring-fenced for the next three financial years. [194143]

Mr. Hanson: As I explained in my written ministerial statement "Investing in Alternatives to Custody" on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, the Government have made a further £40 million available to the Probation Service in 2008-09, in support of delivery plans in each probation area. The funding allocations for the Probation Service in 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be decided and announced in due course.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the results of the review on the use of restraint on young people in secure accommodation. [188659]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

An announcement will be made in the House shortly.

Vandalism: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for vandalism in (i) Easington constituency and (ii) the County of Durham in each year since 2002. [194124]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Information is given in table 1 as follows for Durham police force area for the number of persons arrested for offences within the main offence group 'criminal damage'.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal damage are given in table 2 as follows. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify cases involving vandalism since both the arrest and court appearance collections are on an offence basis and do not identify the circumstances behind the offences.

Information is given in the tables for Durham police force area. Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Table 1: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) of criminal damage[1] in Durham police force area, by period

Period	*Total*
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	2,346
2004-05	2,813
2005-06	3,480

n/a = Not available.

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, £5,000 or less.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1] in Durham police force area, 2002 to 2006[2]

	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Durham	946	719	889	632	852	669	855	709	980	777

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, £5,000 or less, and in addition offences under section 19 the Allotments Act 1922.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191119]

Maria Eagle: There have been no such objections lodged.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 19 March 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Diplomatic Protection Group

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 7W, on Diplomatic Protection Group, what safety and environmental issues were highlighted by the health and safety assessment; and what possible solutions are being considered. [194308]

Nick Harvey: The safety and environmental issues highlighted by the assessment were: a safe means for officers to leave the premises without danger from motor vehicles; the provision of a means of escape in case of fire; adequate ventilation and prevention of dampness. Solutions being considered to address the first issue are the provision of a convex mirror, a dedicated and marked walkway and instructions to the Officers not to use the vehicle exit ramp; on the other issues, a study is being undertaken of alternative accommodation on the parliamentary estate as well as of the feasibility of adapting the current accommodation so that it meets adequate standards.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of the House service and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194971]

Nick Harvey: In 2003, one claim alleging racial discrimination was brought against the House. It was not upheld by the Employment Tribunal. There have been no claims of discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation.

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will make it its policy to make jugs of tap water available in all dining rooms in the parliamentary estate. [194560]

Nick Harvey: Jugs of water are available in all House of Commons dining rooms. Jugged water is offered as a matter of course with bottled water available to diners if they prefer it.

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the names and address are of suppliers of bottled water to the Department of Facilities; and what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* lorry journeys and *(b)* lorry miles generated by these companies in order to meet orders placed by the Department and its predecessor in each year for which figures are available. [194557]

Nick Harvey: There is one supplier of bottled water to the Department of Facilities. It is:

Hildon Ltd
Broughton
Hampshire SO20 8DG

The number of lorry journeys and lorry miles generated by this company is as follows:

Summary	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total deliveries	165	187	178	195	189
Approx mileage for the year	12705	14399	13706	15015	14553
Distance from supplier to HoP	77	77	77	77	77

These mileage figures do not include a return journey as the supplier's vehicles continue to other destinations with further deliveries.

When delivering to the House of Commons the vehicle is sent into London each day fully loaded with multi drop orders for the London area and hence the vehicle is fully utilised to ensure maximum efficiency.

Hildon have ordered an additional emission free battery powered vehicle which will be used for deliveries to the House of Commons and surrounding area.

Parking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* names, *(b)* job titles and *(c)* employers are of all persons with a permit to use the House underground car park who are not hon. Members, hon. Members' staff or staff of the House. [194466]

Nick Harvey: As at 14 March 2008 there are 207 valid permits for the underground car park (excluding Members, Members' staff and staff of the House). These are broken down as follows:

Employer	*Job title(s)*	*Permits*
Metropolitan Police Service	Police/security/fire officers	160
Post Office	Operational postal grades	13
Press	Correspondents/journalists/reporters	10
PICT	Consultants/engineers/managers	7
House of Commons Whips	Officers/assistants/messengers	5
Parliamentary Broadcasting	Manager/operator/engineer	3
Jacksons Lifts	Engineers	2
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	Director/secretary	2

Employer	*Job title(s)*	*Permits*
W B Gurney and Sons LLP	Shorthand writer to the House	1
House of Lords	Chapel Verger/Principal Attendant	1
Rediffusion	Engineer	1
Security Services Group	Engineer/electrician	2

For security and legal reasons, the names of the permit holders have not been included.

These permits are predominantly required for staff who work unsocial hours, when public transport is unavailable. They are only provided when the requirements of Members and staff of the House have been appropriately catered for.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electronic Voting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment has been made by the Electoral Commission in the remote electronic voting pilots in the 2007 local elections of *(a)* the effect on turnout and *(b)* the value for money of such schemes. [195295]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its reports on the 2007 local election pilot schemes, published in August 2007, found that there was no discernible effect on turnout in those elections. The Commission further found that the fragmented nature of the pilots meant that it was not possible to reach firm conclusions on which pilot schemes, if any, offered value for money.

The Commission's reports can be found on its website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192996]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office owns 16 residential properties, 13 of which are currently occupied. The three vacant properties are with estate agents for sale on the open market; one is only recently vacated, one has been vacant for over three months, the other for over six months.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191261]

David Cairns: Information on the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final regulatory impact assessments published between 1 July and 31 December 2007. From April 2008, all final impact assessment will be published on a central website.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193555]

David Cairns: The staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who maintain the necessary payroll records. The office does not hold information on staff making additional voluntary contributions.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194311]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has made no payments to Ipsos MORI since 1 April 2006.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1st April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189667]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office does not disaggregate its corporate and central running costs to this level of detail.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189668]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The number of Press Officers is published in the office's annual reports, copies of which are in the House Library.

TRANSPORT

A2: M2

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimate is for the final cost of the realignment of the A2 trunk road between Pepper Hill and the M2. [194106]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is anticipated that the scheme will be delivered within the approved budget of £122.3 million.

Abandoned Vehicles: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to amend the fixed charge for removing a vehicle from the highway. [193945]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

We have undertaken a public consultation exercise and further consideration of our original proposals in the light of responses. We are currently finalising our plans for new Regulations which I intend to lay to come into effect in October this year. These Regulations will set the charges that apply when the police use their statutory powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act to remove a vehicle that is illegally, dangerously or obstructively parked, or broken down or abandoned whether on or off-road.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects of proposed changes in the charges for removing vehicles from the highway on *(a)* motorists and *(b)* insurers. [193946]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

A partial impact assessment was included with the consultation document issued on the proposed changes. The document is available on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/stat-charges-index

Aviation: Radioactive Materials

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 41W, on aviation: radioactive materials, what the country of origin was of each of the shipments into the UK. [191708]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The countries of origin of those shipments notified to the Office of Civil Nuclear Security were as follows (the numbers of shipments are in parenthesis):

Spent nuclear fuel: Sweden (2); Japan (1)

Uranium fuel elements: Germany (16)

Uranium hexafluoride: France (12); Netherlands (9); Russia (6); South Korea (2); Germany (1)

Uranium dioxide: Spain (1); USA (1)

Am241: Russia (5)

Of the 16 shipments of large sealed sources which were notified to the DfT: six originated from Argentina, six from Canada, three from Russia and one from France.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 41W, on aviation: radioactive materials, what the destination of each of the shipments leaving the UK was. [191709]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The destinations of those shipments notified to the Office of Civil Nuclear Security were as follows (the numbers of shipments are in parenthesis):

Mixed oxide fuel elements: Switzerland (1)

Uranium hexafluoride: USA (37); France (9); Sweden (6); South Korea (5); China (2); Japan (2)

Uranium dioxide: Spain (26); Japan (7); USA (1)

Am241: USA (5)

The destinations of the large sealed source shipments notified to the DfT were:

Argentina (3), Austria, Belgium, Canada (3), China, Czech Republic, France (4), Germany, Ireland (4), Italy (2), Japan, Netherlands (2), Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA.

Note that the total number of shipments was less than the 34 reported in my answer of 28 January, *Official Report*, column 41W. This was due to some double counting when compiling the earlier figures.

Of the nine shipments of radioactive waste authorised by the Environment Agency, six were to Sweden and three to the USA.

Crossrail: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* legal advice, *(b)* banking and financial consultants and *(c)* other consultants for work on Crossrail. [191690]

Mr. Tom Harris: The amount spent by the Department on legal, banking and financial consultants and other consultants in support of Crossrail is shown in the following table. The figures include spend incurred since financial year 2003-04. They represent actual costs to date.

Type of consultancy	*Amount (£)*
Legal	8,598,195
Finance/Banking	1,287,265
Other	2,775,904

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of staff in her Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193557]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of staff in the Department for Transport making additional voluntary contributions to their pension in each of the last two years are as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Number of staff	886	912
Percentage of staff	4.6	4.7

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1415W, on departmental travel, if she will provide the figures on departmental travel *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* overseas for the financial year 2006-07. [191388]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel arrangements in the Department for Transport and its agencies are made in the most efficient and cost-effective way, and all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in staff handbooks.

The central Department and two of its agencies (MCA and VCA) spent £6,007,819 on UK travel and subsistence, and £3,575,487 on overseas travel and subsistence in 2006-07.

Four agencies (DSA, DVLA, GCDA, and HA) were unable to differentiate fully between UK and overseas travel, but spent a total of £14,486,503 on all travel-related expenses.

The remaining agency, VOSA, could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Heathrow Airport

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the consultation on Adding Capacity at Heathrow, what research her Department has evaluated on the effects of levels of efficiency in slot utilisation at Heathrow airport on the economy. [193679]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Slots at Heathrow are allocated to airlines in accordance with the EU slot allocation regulations. They are currently very highly utilised; for the summer 2008 season, 98 per cent. of available day time slots have been allocated. Airlines are required to use slots allocated 80 per cent. of the time in order to maintain rights to use them in future. A system of monitoring and legally enforceable sanctions is also in place to help ensure airlines do not abuse allocated slots. Further, a number of airlines at Heathrow exchange slots with each other, including with financial consideration, which should lead to a more efficient use of slots.

M1

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to bring forward the development of Junction 11a of the M1. [188300]

Mr. Tom Harris: The proposed A5—M1 Link Dunstable Northern Bypass scheme which includes the development of a new junction 11a on the M1, is currently planned for completion by 2014-15, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the necessary statutory process and availability of funding from the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) for major transport schemes in the East of England.

We have informed the East of England regional assembly that the Highways Agency is preparing the scheme on the basis that an earlier delivery timetable would be feasible if the region decided to prioritise the delivery of the scheme to an earlier timetable.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars brought into the UK by owners from other European Union countries were registered through *(a)* mutual recognition/commission notice schemes and *(b)* other methods in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007. [195035]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The number of mutual recognition/commission notice certificates issued for cars from 2003 to 2007 are as follows:

	Issued
2003	3.257
2004	3.195
2005	3.374
2006	3.578
2007	3.581

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies has spent on promoting the requirement on vehicle sellers to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency of change of ownership in each of the last five years; and what steps have been taken to promote public awareness of the requirement on sellers over this period. [193943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This following table provides details of amounts spent during financial years 2002-03 and 2005-06. No specific amount has been allocated for this purpose since then.

	£
2002-03	24,607
2003-04	194,443
2004-05	202,817
2005-06	238,050
Total	659,917

Publicity campaigns ranged from radio advertising, poster and leaflet campaigns and articles in relevant magazines and perimeter advertising during an England football match.

Network Rail

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the benefits and disbenefits that would arise should the non-executives on the board of Network Rail be appointed to that position other than by Network Rail. [192962]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is a private sector company. Changes to Network Rail's corporate governance arrangements are matters for the company's board and members.

Operation Stack

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in identifying a long-term, off-road solution for Operation Stack; what discussions have been held with Kent county council in respect to its location and funding; and if she will make a statement. [193326]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department and the Highways Agency have undertaken work to assess the viability of a multi-purpose lorry park in Kent which would have included an area that would be used for Operation Stack purposes. However, the initial findings suggest that there is a large gap between potential income and costs.

Separately there have been discussions with Kent county council over the short and longer term solutions to the problems around Operation Stack. The council are in the process of investigating potential off-road sites for parking up lorries and will be advising me of their conclusions in due course.

Railway Stations: Access

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints her Department has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations on railway stations without adequate disabled access. [193610]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since 2005, when the Department for Transport took over responsibility for station access from the Strategic Rail Authority, we have received 20 complaints from individuals, and 10 complaints from organisations, about the level of access to railway stations for disabled people.

Railways: Felixstowe

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration has been given to upgrading the railway between Felixstowe and the Midlands; and what the latest cost estimate was. [190521]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport announced in October 2007 the provision of Productivity TIP funding of £80 million for the enhancement of the route from Peterborough to Nuneaton. In addition, as part of a S106 agreement, Hutchinson Ports UK agreed to fund improvements to the route from Felixstowe to Peterborough.

Further enhancements to the line from Felixstowe to the Midlands are potential candidates for funding from the £200 million Strategic Freight Network provision announced in the summer 2007 Rail White Paper. Network Rail is developing the schemes concerned and project estimates are a matter for it.

Railways: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Transport for London and train operating companies on the provision of Oyster facilities at London mainline train stations; and if she will make a statement. [194155]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster Pay as You Go at London train stations and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment.

Railways: South Central

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what period she plans that the next South Central franchise to run. [192961]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is currently considering the matter of franchise length as part of development of the franchise specification for South Central. We hope to make an announcement shortly.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons she has decided that bidders for the next South Central franchise will be required to bid in accordance with a train operating timetable constructed by her Department. [194540]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport will not be constructing any timetables for the South Central franchise.

Network Rail is currently engaged in a process of developing timetables to facilitate the delivery of the East London line extension in mid 2010, and the construction of the Thameslink project, particularly works at London Bridge, from 2012. These industry developed timetables will be provided to bidders.

Given the complexity of the South London network and the fact that the East London Line timetable will come into force around six to nine months after the new franchise starts it is prudent that planning for such events begins in advance of the new franchise. Network Rail is leading this process.

Roads: Accidents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road traffic accidents involving vehicles driven by people who had not passed a driving test and were unaccompanied by a qualified driver there were in each of the last five years. [195417]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Information requested is not available.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road traffic accidents there were involving the offence of taking and driving away in each of the last five years. [195420]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported fatal road accidents in which a police officer attended the scene of the accident and a 'stolen vehicle' was recorded as a contributory factor for 2005 and 2006 is shown in the following table.

	Number of accidents	
Contributory factor	*2005*	*2006*
Stolen vehicle	22	40

Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005.

The 'stolen vehicle' code is used only where the fact that the vehicle was stolen influenced the driver/rider's behaviour and contributed to the accident. Information on contributory factors to personal injury road accidents is published in 'Road Casualties Great Britain: the annul report' available in the Libraries of the House and on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain2006

Roads: Cheshire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents occurred at the Nether Alderley junction between the A34 and the A537 in Cheshire in each of the last eight years, broken down by those which resulted in *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries, *(c)* minor injuries and *(d)* other outcomes. [194549]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight reported personal injury road accidents at the junction between the A34 and A537 in Cheshire are given in the following table.

	Number of accidents			
	Fatal	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	1	1	0	2
2001	0	0	1	1
2002	0	0	1	1
2003	0	0	2	2
2004	0	0	1	1
2005	0	1	0	1
2006	0	0	1	1

Information on damage only accidents is not collected.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1276W, on animal welfare: religion, what progress has been made on taking into account the views of religious communities while upholding the requirements of animal health and welfare legislation; and if he will make a statement. [194375]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Further to my holding reply of 4 February, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment held a meeting on 7 February with representatives of the Hindu community.

They discussed how we take into account the views of Hindu religious communities when enforcing the requirements of animal health and welfare legislation. It was agreed that interested parties should work together to establish how such cases should be approached in future.

In addition, they proposed that a protocol should be drawn up which, while acknowledging the deeply-held religious beliefs of the Hindu community, will ensure that animals do not suffer unnecessarily.

DEFRA officials will be contacting interested parties shortly to seek their views on an initial draft of the protocol.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he was first advised that the RSPCA were seeking in December 2007, to euthanise the cow, Gangotri, at Bhaktivedanta Manor under the terms of the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [194382]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* An Animal Health Veterinary Officer visited Bhaktivedanta Manor on 4 December 2007 to discuss Gangotri's welfare situation with the keepers.

He concluded that the animal was suffering unnecessarily and wrote to the Hindu community at Bhaktivedanta Manor on 5 December 2007, advising that the animal should be put down during an arranged visit on 7 December 2007.

Consent for euthanasia was refused on 7 December and the veterinary officer withdrew to discuss the matter with the divisional veterinary manager.

RSPCA staff telephoned Animal Health officials on 11 December to advise them of their concerns about Gangotri. The Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health was informed about the Gangotri case on the afternoon of 12 December and was advised that imminent euthanasia was likely.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what is the specified minimum time within which farmers must vaccinate once a decision to vaccinate against bluetongue has been made. [193238]

Jonathan Shaw: Working in partnership with a Core Group of stakeholders, we have developed a vaccination delivery plan. This advances a voluntary approach, supported by an industry-led campaign to promote the importance of vaccination. The plan aims to:

i. allow vaccination to be rolled out as quickly as possible, as the doses are delivered;

ii. reduce the cost of vaccination to a minimum by using existing delivery chains and reducing regulatory burdens; and

iii. encourage farmers to take advantage of the freedom to make business decisions based on knowledge of the potential costs of the disease and the significant benefits that vaccination offers.

Therefore, there will be no specified minimum time within which farmers must vaccinate once a decision to vaccinate against bluetongue has been made.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency arrangements he has made for controlling imports of livestock from the EU should bluetongue become more prevalent. [193242]

Jonathan Shaw: Bluetongue-susceptible animals coming from a bluetongue zone in another member state must satisfy the requirements of Annex III of the EU Bluetongue Regulation (1266/2007). Susceptible animals may be moved out of restricted zones into free areas, provided an official veterinarian from the exporting country has certified that all the necessary conditions are met. Importers also have a responsibility only to import animals that comply with the rules and to notify Animal Health before the movement takes place. Animals are permitted to move freely within the same zones within EU member states; for example, from the French protection zone to the UK protection zone.

As a precautionary measure, all susceptible animals imported into the UK from continental EU member states are post-import tested for bluetongue. This measure has been in place since May 2006.

Cattle

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of cows in the national herd which are being kept in zero-grazed conditions. [193224]

Jonathan Shaw: No such estimates have been made.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs were destroyed under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last 10 years. [193414]

Jonathan Shaw: Figures for the number of destruction orders made under dangerous dogs legislation are not held centrally.

Departmental Equality

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [190681]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was one of the Government Departments that was criticised by the Disability Rights Commission in 2007 for failing to produce an effective Disability Equality Scheme. Rather than trying to improve and strengthen the disability aspects of our Joint Equality Scheme, DEFRA took the opportunity to produce a more focused and effective single equality scheme for disability.

Our new scheme was developed with the involvement of disabled people and was approved by the new Equalities and Human Rights Commission at the end of 2007. This new Disability Equality Scheme has been published in full and summary form on the DEFRA internet site.

Over the past year, and during the course of developing our new scheme we have seen some very tangible improvements for disabled and deaf staff and service users. We have, for example, created a central disability fund to meet the cost of reasonable adjustments for disabled and deaf staff in the Core DEFRA Department. Our bullying and harassment policy has been revised and we have recruited and trained a cohort of harassment advisers. We have also launched a mediation service for staff. In addition, we have strengthened our relationship with DisNet, our staff network for disabled staff. A very significant advancement has been in the governance arrangements for our Disability Equality Scheme. We have set up a Disability Equality Scrutiny and Advisory Group made up of independent disabled experts to monitor and advise on our progress against our action plans.

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187470]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables provide details of property lost/stolen with an estimated value of over £50 (at the time of loss). Items valued at under £50 are not recorded.

1996-97

Description	*Value (£)*
2 VCR machines	
Laboratory Equipment	
Camcorder and accessories	
Toaster and electric fans	
Total replacement cost	2,150

1997-98

Description	*Value (£)*
2 PCs	
Answering machine	
Telephone and answering machine	
Total replacement cost	6,130

1998-99

Description	*Value (£)*
Dictaphone	
5 laptops	
2 processors	
2 PCs	
Total replacement cost	18,465

1999-2000

Description	*Value (£)*
8 laptops and 1 printer	
3 PSION	
4 power adaptors	
Field equipment	

1999-2000

Description	*Value (£)*
3 software packages	
2 PCs	
2 Mobile telephone	
Total replacement cost	21,835

2000-01

Description	*Value (£)*
15 laptops: 1 printer; 1 modem	
34 processors	
7 PCs	
2 Mobile telephones and unauthorised calls	
12 rolls of gaffer tape	
Total replacement cost	41,240

2001-02

Description	*Value (£)*
13 laptops	
Samsung Fax machine	
4 projectors	
2 printers	
1 mobile telephone	
DIM cards	
1 keyboard	
Total replacement cost	21,437

2002-03

Description	*Value ( )*
23 laptops	
4 LCD projectors	
12 PDA	
Total replacement cost	32,812

2003-04

Description	*Value (£)*
2 laptops	
Various car parts from official DEFRA vehicle	
1 mobile telephone	
Total replacement cost	8,751

2004-05

Description	*Value (£)*
3 laptops	
3 monitors	
42 inch plasma screen TV	
Olympus digital camera	
Garmin GPS	
Fuji digital camera	
Kodak digital camera	
1 PDA	
Total replacement cost	7,372

2005-06

Description	*Value (£)*
18 Laptops	
Desk top Microphones	
Data projector	
Victorian desk	
Tom Tom Navigation device	
1 digital camera	
4 mobile telephones	
1 PDA	
6 projectors	
2 monitors and memory box	
Total replacement cost	24,797

2006-07

Description	*Value (£)*
22 Laptops	
8 PDA	
1 monitor	
2 docking stations	
4 mobile telephones	
Total replacement cost	19,319

2007-08

Description	*Value (£)*
13 Laptops	
1 PDA	
1 projector	
1 docking station	
1 charger	
1 digital camera	
Total replacement cost	12,700

This information has been drawn from records held by the former Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (covering the financial years 1996-97 to 2000-01) and this Department from 2001-02 to the present. No information is available for losses incurred by the former Department of Environment.

IT services were outsourced to IBM in October 2004 and all IT equipment then became the property of the new service provider .

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many residential properties are owned by his Department; how many of these are vacant; and how many have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months. [192917]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department currently owns 91 dwellings of which nine dwellings, surplus to operational requirements, are vacant as at 10 March. Of the nine vacant dwellings, eight are vacant as a consequence of being sold subject to contract and one is being offered for sale.

The number of dwellings falling in to the vacancy periods are *(a)* five dwellings have been vacant in excess of three months *(b)* two dwellings have been vacant in excess of six months and *(c)* two dwellings have been vacant in excess of 12 months. The remaining two vacant dwellings have been unoccupied for less than three months.

Dolphins: Moray Firth

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of oil and gas exploration in the Moray Firth on bottlenose dolphin populations. [194910]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1100W.

Domestic Wastes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the comments of the Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 711W, in what circumstances the Government will come back to Parliament to amend the revenue-neutrality condition. [193187]

Joan Ruddock: The Government currently have no plans to come back to Parliament to amend the revenue-neutrality condition. We believe that our proposals for a revenue-neutral scheme are the right way forward.

However, even though it is a low possibility, we think it is sensible to have the flexibility to amend the legislation in the light of experience with the pilots and on an ongoing basis if we make the powers more widely available in the future. The affirmative resolution procedure offers strong accountability and reflects the importance we attach to the revenue-neutrality condition.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether properties with a class H council tax exemption will be liable for the new charges for the collection of household waste in areas where the charges are being introduced. [194766]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Properties with a class H council tax exemption are unoccupied dwellings held for Ministers of Religion. The exact details of how a scheme operates—including which households in an area are covered—would be up to the local authorities coming forward to run pilots to decide. However, where domestic properties are not occupied, one would not expect household waste to be generated or collected and, therefore, it would be unlikely that waste incentives would apply.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the new charges for the collection of household waste will be levied on *(a)* student halls of residence, *(b)* houses of multiple occupancy and *(c)* blocks of flats with communal waste bins or chutes. [194767]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

As with many of the powers that councils have in relation to local services, it will be up to individual authorities, working with their communities, to decide which households a pilot scheme should cover. This includes whether or not to cover flats, student halls of residence, multiple occupancy accommodation or where householders have communal bins.

The Climate Change Bill states that pilot authorities will be required to take account of the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups in devising and running waste incentive schemes. They may, for example, wish to make special provision for some groups, or exempt them from the scheme altogether. We will be working with stakeholders to develop guidance for local authorities on this.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste collection authorities have *(a)* closed lid policies and *(b)* no side waste collection policies, for the collection of household waste. [194768]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 753W.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* estimate of the level of fly-tipping and *(b)* assessment of trends in the incidence of fly-tipping the Environment Agency made in each of the last five years. [193890]

Joan Ruddock: The following table shows the summary totals of fly-tipping incidents reported to Flycapture by local authorities and the Environment Agency in England for the three years for which data are available.

Year	*Total local authority incidents*	*Change on previous year (percentage)*	*Total Environment Agency incidents*	*Change on previous year (percentage)*
2006-07	2,633,518	+5	988	-36
2005-06	2,508,436	+172	1,540	-64
2004-05	922,204	n/a	4,330	n/a

A possible reason for the rise in fly-tipping offences recorded by Flycapture in its second and third years may simply be due to better reporting and a rise in the number of local authorities in England submitting regular returns. In the first year only 174 of the 354 authorities provided a full year of data returns. In 2006-07, this number rose to 323.

Over time, the database will help us build up a more accurate picture of illegally dumped waste, as well as providing a useful management tool for local authorities in tackling the problem.

Since April 2005, the Environment Agency has refocused its resources at tackling the more serious and organised illegal waste dumping crimes while local authorities tackle the high numbers of small scale fly-tipping. This is reflected in a decrease in the number of incidents the Environment Agency has tackled in the last three years.

Mauve Stingers

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2281W on mauve stingers, to which types of jellyfish blooms the UK is vulnerable; and if he will make a statement; [194850]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2281W, on mauve stingers, what assessment he has made of whether climate change has made the UK more vulnerable to mauve stingers; and if he will make a statement; [194851]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2281W, on mauve stingers, whether he has commissioned research into mauve stingers; and if he will make a statement; [194852]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2281W, on mauve stingers, on which occasions mauve stingers have affected the UK aquaculture sector; and if he will make a statement. [194853]

Jonathan Shaw: There are six species of jellyfish that occur in UK coastal waters. They are:

(a) Mauve stinger Pelagia noctiluca

(b) Compass jellyfish Chrysaora hysoscella

(c) Lion's mane jellyfish Cyanea capillata

(d) Blue jellyfish Cyanea lamarckii

(e) Moon jellyfish Aurelia aurita

(f) Barrel jellyfish Rhizostoma octopus

Mauve stingers are oceanic and occur in coastal waters only occasionally. Little is known about the temporal and spatial patterns of occurrence for mauve stingers. The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) have awarded a short-term (6-month) urgency award to Swansea university to assess the overall extent of mauve stinger occurrence in the Irish sea and adjacent waters during the winter of 2007-08.

The last two decades have seen increasing water temperatures around the UK and as mauve stingers have a predominantly southern distribution (e.g. being highly abundant in the Mediterranean) we might thus expect increasing bloom formation around the UK coast.

The problems with fish damage and mortalities due to influx of jellyfish swarms are well known to the finfish aquaculture industry, and to their insurers. In the UK and Ireland, Mauve stingers and other oceanic jellyfish such as Solmaris corona, along with some common coastal species such as the moon jellyfish Aurelia, are known to have caused significant mortalities of farmed fish. The problem is a global one for marine fish farmers. Although the industry has developed some ways to manage and mitigate the risks and effects of toxic plankton, these are not always effective with large swarms of jellyfish that can appear suddenly on one tide and disappear on the next, or may persist for days or weeks.

There is no systematic reporting of jelly fish events and the reports that Fisheries Research Services (FRS) has are of an ad-hoc nature. A table summarising jellyfish incidents follows.

Number of affected sites	*Number of fish killed*	*Biomass lost (Tonnes)*
8	244,000	404
3	4,300	unknown
43	2,275,100	5,754
26	1,857,800	2,552
10	205,750	317.7
2	770	2.76
4	117,838	317
4	48,827	110.2
3	280,000	472

Source:
FRS

It is important to note that as the aquaculture industry has developed since the mid nineteen eighties they increasingly use commercial fish vets and their own labs to investigate such incidents which are not notifiable under statute.

Nature Conservation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of trading in endangered species in each year since the new legislation on such trading was introduced. [194515]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 in England and Wales for the years 2000 to 2006, is shown in the following table.

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000	10	6
2001	11	6
2002	4	3
2003	10	2
2004	4	3
2005	2	0
2006	10	10

These figures are on the principal offence basis. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

In addition, the number of individuals who were prosecuted under section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 for offences involving specimens covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora during the same period, can be viewed in the following table.

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000	1	1
2001	2	2
2002	4	3
2003	0	—
2004	1	1
2005	0	—
2006	1	1

Organic Farming: Subsidies

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was awarded from the public purse to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's farming division via countryside and land stewardship schemes and other Government-administered farm, environmental and landownership support schemes in respect of the Society's Stoughton farming estate within Harborough District and the Borough of Oadby and Wigston in Leicestershire in each year for which figures are available. [190127]

Jonathan Shaw: Payments to Stoughton estate:

£

	All payments to Stoughton Estate	*Countryside stewardship*	*Entry level stewardship*	*Other Government administered schemes*[1]
2003-04	49,465.45	—	28,347.24	21,118.21
2004-05	120,851.13	—	34,915.56	85,935.57
2005-06	63,694.56	—	32,027.18	31,667.38
2006-07	119,543.07	51,801.00	31,138.73	36,603.34
2007-08	78,820.23	51,546.50	28,274.23	—
2008-09	25,773.00	25,773.00	—	—
Total	459147.44	129,120.50	154,702.94	175,324.50

[1] Other Government administered schemes includes FWPS, Slaughter Premium Scheme, LP, OFS

It is not possible to extract the amount paid to the Stoughton Estate through the Single Payment Scheme without incurring disproportionate cost.

Packaging: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions associated with the production, distribution and disposal of *(a)* plastic carrier bags and *(b)* paper bags of equivalent size; and if he will make a statement. [194895]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* Assessments by the Waste and Resources Action Programme put the emissions associated with the production, distribution and disposal of the 13 billion plastic carrier bags given out every year in the UK at around 234,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents.

We do not have a carbon emissions figure for paper bags of equivalent size. However, many studies have shown that paper bags have the potential for greater environmental impacts, as they require more energy to produce, transport and recycle.

This is why the Government's goal to phase out single-use carrier bags applies to both plastic and paper bags.

Refrigerators: Recycling

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* chlorofluorocarbon, *(b)* hydrofluorocarbon and *(c)* hydrocarbon recovery rates arising from the recycling of fridges in the latest period for which figures are available. [194893]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* Recovery rates are not recorded for these categories separately.

For 2006, around 2.7 million fridges and freezers were collected for treatment in England and Wales. Around two million of these contained ozone-depleting substances when manufactured. Their treatment resulted in over 440 tonnes of ozone-depleting substances (e.g. chlorofluorocarbons) being recovered for destruction.

Figures for 2007 are not yet available.

Refrigerators: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of fridges disposed of by *(a)* fragmentisers and *(b)* approved authorised treatment facilities since the introduction of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [194891]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* DEFRA has not made any such estimates. All separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)—including fridges—must be treated by approved authorised treatment facilities (AATFs) in accordance with the published guidance on best available treatment, recovery and recycling techniques. Some of these AATFs may be fragmentisers.

Under the WEEE Directive, fridges are included in the "large household appliances" category. AATFs record the amount of each WEEE category that they have treated but only those that are specialist fridge treatment plants record the number of fridges that have been treated. Figures for the number of fridges treated by fragmentisers or by AATFs in total are therefore not available.

Seeds: EC Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of incremental costs for seed registration; and if he will make a statement. [193237]

Jonathan Shaw: The statutory fees relating to seeds registration are those charged by the national authorities in respect of costs reasonably incurred in carrying out official measures for the purposes of The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 2001, as amended.

Fees were last revised in May 2006 following a major redesign of the official measures. This resulted in estimated savings in overall costs to the industry of £1 million a year.

The fees are currently subject to review and consultation with interested parties. Consultation proposals include a mixture of increases, and decreases to existing fees, and take account of the industry's ability to pay.

Sharks: Conservation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to secure an international ban on shark finning; [194903]

(2) if he will make it his policy to press for an international moratorium on shark hunting. [194904]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is against the practice of finning sharks and discarding the bodies back into the sea. We are committed to reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, where finning is thought to be practiced with resulting impacts on shark populations, by actively implementing the proposals of the High Seas Task Force in order to help identify and eliminate illegal fishing activity.

Our aim is to achieve the sustainable use and conservation of shark species at national-level. We will also work to influence the European Commission, both at EU-level and beyond where the European Commission represents member states in fora such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) and the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The European Commission intends to adopt a communication on an EU plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks in December 2008. I believe this will provide an opportunity for the European Community to take an ecosystem approach to the management and conservation of sharks in EU waters and internationally. I intend to work with DEFRA officials, the commission and other member states towards this.

Sustainable Development: Products

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which bodies his Department consulted during the development of the framework for the Energy-using Products Framework Directive; [193956]

(2) what plans he has to meet interested stakeholders in the three week consultation period following the consultation forum on the Energy-using Products Framework Directive held on 29 February. [193958]

Joan Ruddock: Following receipt, on 31 January, of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the Framework Directive on the Eco Design of Energy Using Products (EuP), the Market Transformation Programme (MTP) sent a copy of the proposals to a distribution list of several hundred stakeholders. These included any business or trade association that had previously expressed an interest in receiving information on developments on heating. The MTP asked for comments within three weeks to prepare a position for the Consultation Forum meeting on 29 February.

DEFRA officials held a large stakeholder meeting on 4 February to discuss both the proposals in the consultation paper on domestic heating and to receive feedback from industry on the Commission's proposals on boilers and water heaters. In addition, officials have held a number of ad hoc meetings with key stakeholders from the boiler and water heater industry, (including a site visit to better understand the boiler supply chain) to discuss the implications of the proposals on boilers and water heaters for the UK.

DEFRA officials will continue to engage with stakeholders on this issue following the consultation forum held on 29 February.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Energy-using Products Framework Directive does not disadvantage small and medium-sized manufacturers. [193957]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2877-8W to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh).

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the Energy-using Products Framework Directive on equipment currently installed in homes; and what estimate he has made of the number of room thermostats and programmers which will become redundant each year. [193959]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Market Transformation Programme is currently assessing the full range of possible impacts of the implementation of the Energy Using Products Directive, based on the Commission's current proposals.

DEFRA has not made any assessment of the number of room thermostats and programmers which become redundant each year. We estimate that around 1.5 million boilers are changed each year. The opportunity may be taken to replace some of the controls when a new boiler is installed, in which case the old controls may be considered redundant.

Trapping

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 49W, on trapping, what plans he has to commission research into alternatives to snaring. [194534]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has previously funded research into the use of padded leg-cuffs and is currently funding research into the use of fertility control to manage over abundant wildlife. The Independent Snares Working Group highlighted the limited information on the humaneness of snares and DEFRA acknowledged this in its Snares Action Plan. DEFRA has, therefore, recently commissioned research to determine the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Waste and Resources Action programme's budget was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; and what its budget will be in 2008-09. [194908]

Joan Ruddock: Total funding allocated to the Waste and Resources Action programme from DEFRA's funding streams for the years requested is as follows:

Year	*Total (£)*
2005-06	71,605,000
2006-07	65,505,000
2007-08	61,818,300
2008-09	43,223,000

Waste Disposal: Plastics

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the volume of waste plastics to be sent from the UK to China for processing in each of the next five years; [194561]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect changes in the amount of UK plastics waste taken by China will have on the UK's performance in recycling. [194562]

Joan Ruddock: No such estimate has been made. Based on HM Revenue and Customs figures, it is estimated that in 2006 (the last year for which figures are available) the UK exported 441,000 tonnes of plastic. This figure will include recyclable materials collected from all sources including households, commerce and industry. However, records are not held of the destination country of exports of UK non-hazardous plastic waste for recycling.

The Environment Agency has published a range of guidance on the international shipment of waste. This is available on its website.

The UK currently recycles or recovers approximately 19 per cent. of all plastic consumed and this is set to increase to over 25 per cent. by 2010. In terms of processing capacity within the UK, according to studies carried out by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the indication is that the UK has, in fact, excess capacity to process plastic waste. Many plants are investing in new capacity or updating and consolidating existing plants, some with support from WRAP. WRAP also has a number of projects designed to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate, including plastics, used in UK manufacturing operations.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what alternatives exist to the disposal of UK waste plastics by China. [194563]

Joan Ruddock: It is illegal to export waste (including waste plastics) from the UK to other countries, such as China, for disposal, but it can be exported for reuse or recycling (recovery).

The Environment Agency has published a range of guidance on the international shipment of waste, including guidance on the controls that apply to exports for recovery. This is available on its website.

Waste Management: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate was made of the proportion of households potentially liable for charges for the collection of household waste in *(a)* the impact assessment produced by his Department and *(b)* the research by Eunomia which informed his Department's policy. [193869]

Joan Ruddock: Powers announced in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage waste minimisation and recycling.

The decision to pilot a waste incentive scheme rests with the local authority. The local authority will also decide the boundaries of the pilot within its area and the Secretary of State will approve the five pilots. Therefore, we have made no assessment of the proportion of households potentially liable for charges under a waste incentive scheme.

For modelling purposes, the impact assessment and the research by Eunomia consider the situation where 62 per cent. of households are covered by a scheme. However, this is not an estimate of how many households will in fact be covered at any point in the future.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers he proposes for waste collection authorities seeking to levy charges for the collection of household waste to issue fines or penalties to individual households who do not pay the charges; and what maximum penalty or sanction is proposed. [193892]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 871W, and the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 222W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received from the Environmental Services Association on *(a)* new charges for the collection of household waste and *(b)* fortnightly rubbish collections in the last 12 months. [194403]

Joan Ruddock: The Environmental Services Association responded to the consultation on incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. All individual consultation responses are publicly available from the DEFRA information resource centre.

Waste Management: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers local authorities have to charge for the compulsory provision of wheelie bins. [194495]

Joan Ruddock: The provisions relating to local authorities' powers to charge for the receptacles for household waste are set out in section 46(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Section 46(3) states:

> "In making requirements under subsection (1) above the authority may, as respects the provision of the receptacles—
>
> (a) determine that they be provided by the authority free of charge;
>
> (b) propose that they be provided, if the occupier agrees, by the authority on payment by him of such single payment or such periodical payments as he agrees with the authority;
>
> (c) require the occupier to provide them if he does not enter into an agreement under paragraph (b) above within a specified period; or
>
> (d) require the occupier to provide them."

Waste Management: Prisons

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligations waste collection authorities have to provide free disposal of waste from prisons. [193933]

Joan Ruddock: There is no duty on a waste collection authority to dispose of any waste. Waste disposal authorities are required by section 51(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (ERA) to dispose of waste collected by waste collection authorities.

Under paragraph 16 of schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 (CWR) waste from prisons or other penal institutions is classified as household waste. However, like all other 'schedule 2' wastes the duty to collect only begins when the authority is asked to collect the waste and it can charge to cover the cost of collection.

A local authority cannot charge for disposal of household waste regardless of the source.

Waste Management: Standards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce an accreditation scheme to ensure adequate environmental standards in waste treatment facilities. [194894]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* DEFRA has no plans to introduce such an accreditation scheme.

Most waste treatment facilities are already required to operate in accordance with a permit, issued by the Environment Agency, designed to ensure high levels of environmental protection. In addition, only people who are 'fit and proper persons' are authorised to operate waste facilities and managers must be able to demonstrate that they are technically competent. Facilities are inspected by the Environment Agency in a manner that takes account of the risk the site presents and the performance of the operator. Inspection also takes account of accreditation under environmental management systems.

From 6 April this year, waste treatment facilities will be permitted under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. This is a new modern permitting system which brings all regulated waste activities under a single, consistent and risk based permitting and compliance regime.

PRIME MINISTER

Military Bases

Dr. Fox: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which UK military bases and installations he has visited since June 2007; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each such visit; [193888]

(2) how many times he has visited the military managed ward at Selly Oak Hospital since it was established. [193889]

The Prime Minister: I have visited members of the armed forces both in the United Kingdom and abroad, and have met injured personnel on these occasions. Visits to injured personnel and to hospitals are undertaken privately.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Grassroots Grants Programme

9. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the grassroots grants programme. [195054]

Phil Hope: Grassroots Grants will enable the smallest, volunteer-led organisations to thrive and direct their energies to the particular challenges they see in their local community. Grassroots Grants is a ground-breaking £130 million programme, combining an £80 million small grants fund—which will run for three years—with a £50 million endowment, which will mean a sustainable source of small grants for years to come.

Third Sector Organisations

10. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the role of the third sector in delivering public services. [195055]

Edward Miliband: Third sector organisations have the potential to play an important role in the design, development and delivery of public services. This is reflected in our recent reforms in offender management, employment and health and social care. However, the third sector should never be an excuse for cutting Government funding to public services.

Post Office Closures

11. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Social Exclusion Task Force has assessed the likely effect of post office closures on levels of social inclusion. [195056]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) and the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory).

Olympic Games

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the allocation of funding for the Olympic Games on the funding of the voluntary sector. [195057]

Phil Hope: The Olympics will bring important benefits and the Big Lottery Fund has introduced important safeguards to protect the amount of funding available to voluntary sector organisations.

The fund has ensured that no existing lottery projects will be affected and that the original estimated £2 billion over the next five years will continue to be available for the third sector.

Child Poverty

13. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what work the Social Exclusion Task Force has conducted on the level of child poverty. [195058]

Phil Hope: The Government has succeeded in arresting and reversing the long-term trend of rising child poverty. Compared to 1998 there are 600,000 fewer children living in relative poverty and 1.8 million fewer living in absolute poverty. The joint DWP/DCSF Child Poverty Unit takes responsibility for analysis of child poverty trends across Government. The Social Exclusion Taskforce is conducting complementary research focused upon the experience of multiple disadvantage by children and their families.

Social Exclusion

14. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the creation of a national assessment centre for early intervention policies to tackle social exclusion; and if he will make a statement. [195059]

Edward Miliband: Early intervention is a key principle being championed by the Social Exclusion Taskforce and we continue to work with partners across Whitehall, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families as well as outside organisations, in identifying and testing innovative approaches to preventing social exclusion.

Charities Act 2006

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will revise the implementation plan for the Charities Act 2006. [194581]

Phil Hope: The Charities Act 2006 implementation plan is published on the website of the Office of the Third Sector. It was last updated in November 2007, and is due to be updated again in April 2008. The website itself is updated more frequently, and stakeholders can stay in touch with developments by subscribing to an e-mail update service.

Charity Commission: Appeals

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects the Charity Tribunal to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [194580]

Phil Hope: The Charity Tribunal was brought into force on 18 March 2008, by The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2008 (SI 2008 No. 751 (C.32)). It is operational from that date.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government have taken to ensure high performing voluntary services are recognised for their contribution to the community. [194802]

Phil Hope: The Government recognise high performing voluntary services for their contribution to the community through the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The Queens Award is unique by being the only Award of this kind in the UK honours system and is equivalent to an MBE.

To date there have been nearly 600 of these prestigious Awards given to groups of volunteers in the UK who all agree that this not only means reward for their hard work but recognition and standing in the local community.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage people to volunteer. [194804]

Phil Hope: Over the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period the Government will be investing over £137 million in programmes to encourage people to volunteer, such as the national youth charity v, Goldstar, Volunteering for All, and strategic funding to organisations such as Volunteering England and the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

The Government recently announced plans to invest £4 million in new training programmes for volunteers, and £2 million to create a new access to volunteering fund for disabled people, in response to recommendations by the Commission on the Future of Volunteering.

The Office of the Third Sector is also working across Government to reduce the barriers that prevent people from volunteering by, for example, working with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure benefit claimants can also volunteer.

Voluntary Work: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government have taken to consult the third sector on decisions on relevant Government funding changes. [194803]

Phil Hope: The Government are committed to the principles set out in the Compact.

The Compact Code on Funding and Procurement sets out that Government undertake to give enough notice of the end of grants or contracts. This should be a minimum of three months. The Code also sets out that the Government undertake to implement longer term funding arrangements where these represent good value for money and to provide whenever possible an opportunity for the voluntary and community sector to contribute to programme design.

The Office of the Third Sector's plans are set out in the final report of the third sector review The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: Final Report (Cm 7189), published in July 2007. This report followed extensive consultation with the third sector, with 93 open consultation events held, reaching over 1,000 organisations and over 250 written responses received.

The new local government performance framework embeds the role of the third sector in local decision-making. The third sector is an essential partner in local strategic partnerships and as such takes part in decisions about priorities to be funded through the local area agreement.

The framework also includes the duty to involve. This means that local authorities consider, as a matter of course, the consultation and involvement opportunities they will need to provide and that they take action to engage with the full diversity of groups in their area, including consideration of what support might be needed for these groups to be involved.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide further *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance for relevant healthcare professionals on the identification and management of alcohol abuse. [191289]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has funded the production of guidance to support the effective delivery of high quality training on substance misuse, including alcohol, within undergraduate medical education in the United Kingdom. "Substance Misuse in the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum" was developed with the involvement of all of the UK medical schools, was overseen by an expert steering group and published by the International Centre for Drug Policy in April 2007.

The Foundation programme, which describes the syllabus and competencies for junior doctors to understand the effects of alcohol on health and psychological wellbeing of the patient and family members, the effects of alcohol on pregnancy, to know about local support groups or agencies and to demonstrate competence in taking alcohol histories and advising on safer drinking levels or drinking cessation. The Department is currently involved in the development of new learning resources across all aspects of the Foundation programme including this one.

The Government have invested £3.2 million to commission a two year trailblazer research project on the identification and management of alcohol abuse. The outputs will include guidance on the most effective screening tools and revised support materials for healthcare professionals as well as those in criminal justice settings.

The Department is developing a web-based e-learning module which will train health professionals in the routine identification of alcohol misuse and how to advise patients on reducing their drinking or, if necessary, refer them to appropriate specialist treatment. The module will be available to clinicians across the entire national health service by the summer and will subsequently be made available to other health and social care professionals.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 845W, on arthritis: drugs, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend since 2004 in *(a)* the number of prescription items dispensed in the community and *(b)* the net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community. [195336]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 28 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1883W.

Barking Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the expected financial balance of the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust for 2007-08. [194269]

Mr. Bradshaw: At Q3, Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust is forecasting a £39.9 million deficit for the 2007-08 financial year.

The trust is in the process of developing its plan for financial turnaround. London strategic health authority is confident the trust will be able to demonstrate its longer term viability and expects to return to a modest surplus by 2009-10.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health over what period of time the use of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved cancer drugs will be assessed as part of the National Cancer Director's evaluation. [195440]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Cancer Director's evaluation of the use of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved cancer drugs will assess the period July-December 2007.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191778]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health is committed to promoting safe use of the Internet and recognises Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines as a key tool for protecting citizens and children from accessing inappropriate material online.

The Department's corporate website (www.dh.gov.uk) follows the 2000 ICRA guidelines.

The Department's website has displayed ICRA ratings on all its content since February 2004 and applying an ICRA value is a mandatory part of the Department's content publishing process.

The Department is also responsible for NHS Choices, a number of sub domain and campaign sites. NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) supports ICRA and is working on the use of the guidelines across its content. The remainder of the smaller sites do not carry ICRA ratings. However, they do display content description metadata, which most search engines use to filter out inappropriate material.

The Central Office of Information is currently preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government's Web estate including safety online for users. When that is issued, the Department will implement what they mandate.

Drugs: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency were being treated for drug addiction at the latest date for which figures are available. [194721]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) does not provide published numbers of individuals in contact with structured drug treatment, hereafter referred to as treatment numbers, based on constituency boundaries.

Run in partnership with Manchester University, the NTA's National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) does provide treatment numbers at local drug action team partnership level for the 149 Drug Action Teams (DATs) in England. Each DAT area corresponds with a local authority area.

The most recent treatment numbers for Lancashire DAT are provided as follows:

	Number
Numbers in treatment[1]	3,652
Numbers in treatment: year to date[2]	4,919

[1] Number of drug users in treatment in January 2008 (the most recent month for which figures are available).

[2] Total numbers in treatment at end of January 2008 for the financial year 2007-08. *Source:* www.ndtms.net

Hay Fever

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the number of (i) males and (ii) females diagnosed with hay fever; and if he will make a statement. [194194]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department commissioned a review of the data and research available on the epidemiology of allergic conditions as part of a Review of Services for Allergy. The review found that epidemiological studies suggest that hay fever is present in approximately 10 per cent., of the general population but did not separately identify the proportion of male and female sufferers.

Headaches

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent research on assessment of headache disorders he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated; and what plans he has to commission further such research; [194208]

(2) if he will increase public research funding for headache disorder medicine; if he will take steps to improve patient access to headache care and services; and if he will make a statement. [194209]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. That research currently includes a pragmatic, randomised trial into the use of acupuncture for migraine and headache in primary care; and a randomised placebo controlled trial of propranolol and Pizotifen in preventing migraine in children.

The NIHR funded University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre is also undertaking research on headache and pain. A five-year budget of £3.7 million has been allocated to this work.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC, an independent body, receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The MRC is currently funding a research fellowship relating to familial hemiplegic migraine and has previously funded a prospective study of patients with headache in primary care which aimed to provide evidence about the accuracy of diagnosis, the prognosis, reasons for referral, and the economic costs for patients and society.

A range of pharmacological interventions are available to prevent the occurrence of headaches, and to relieve the pain of attacks. It is the responsibility of health professionals to consider what treatment is the most appropriate for their patients, in consultation with the patient and informed by their medical history.

The provision of services to meet the needs of those living with migraine and headaches is specifically covered by the "National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions". The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Health Services: Finance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is for the Diagnostics programme in each of the next five financial years; how much of this budget has been allocated, broken down by project; and how much of this budget has been contracted, broken down by contract. [188913]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 February 2008]:* The Department does not have a central diagnostics programme budget.

The 18 weeks programme has a diagnostics workstream, focused on supporting front-line staff in reducing long waits for diagnostics to enable delivery of 18 weeks. More detailed information about the diagnostics workstream can be found on the 18 weeks website at:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/achieve-and-sustain/Diagnostics

This workstream is funded from the 18 week programme budget. The provisional budget allocation for 2008-09 is estimated at £1.4 million. As 18 weeks will be delivered this year, there is no budget allocated after March 2009.

Health Services: Prisons

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what benchmarks have been established to assess the fitness of private contractors to undertake work in prison health care departments; what penalties apply to contractors who fail to meet their contractual obligations; and if he will make a statement; [195011]

(2) what steps he has taken to maintain the quality of care in prison health care departments run by private companies; and if he will make a statement; [195012]

(3) what measures are in place to ensure that employees of health care departments in the prison service do not lose benefits as a result of the transfer of undertakings to private contractors; and if he will make a statement. [195013]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not directly regulate or monitor private companies' involvement in specific local services.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs), the local leaders of the national health service, to commission an appropriate range of high quality health care services to meet the needs of their population. For prison health services, as with other health services, PCTs may decide to procure alternatives from other NHS organisations or from the private sector or the third sector. Strategic health authorities ensure that PCTs carry out their commissioning role effectively, and in line with the principles and rules for competition established by the Department.

The Healthcare Commission is responsible for regulating independent sector providers and assessing and inspecting NHS providers. In prisons and places of detention, the Healthcare Commission works together with HM Inspectorate of Prisons to inspect health services, under a memorandum of understanding. For contracted out services, PCTs remain responsible for maintaining NHS standards of care, and the Healthcare Commission inspects and reviews PCTs against the standards of health care in those prisons for which they are responsible.

For individuals whose contracts of employment move from the prison service to private contractors, Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations apply, under which employees' existing terms and conditions are protected.

Health Trainers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2383W, on health trainers, how much was allocated to each spearhead primary care trust in 2006-07 from the choosing health budget to pay for health trainers; [194739]

(2) how much was allocated to each primary care trust in 2007-08 from the choosing health budget to pay for health trainers. [194740]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to primary care trust (PCTs) separately identified £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08 to support various choosing health programmes, including £36 million in 2006-07 and £77 million in 2007-08 for health trainers. The total funding was identified for each PCT, but not the funding for each programme. This is shown in the following table, alongside which PCTs are in the spearhead group.

		£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT (spearhead)	2,167	2,611
Barking and Dagenham PCT (spearhead)	1,303	1,570
Barnet PCT	1,024	2,032
Barnsley PCT (spearhead)	1,726	2,081
Bassetlaw PCT	356	707
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	533	1,056
Bedfordshire PCT	834	2,006
Berkshire East PCT	778	1,857
Berkshire West PCT	1,248	2,474
Bexley Care Trust	669	1,327
Birmingham East and North PCT (spearhead)	2,498	3,098
Blackburn with Darwen PCT (spearhead)	1,110	1,337
Blackpool PCT (spearhead)	1,096	1,320
Bolton PCT (spearhead)	1,870	2,254
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,082	2,142
Bradford and Airedale PCT (spearhead)	3,398	4,096
Brent Teaching PCT	712	1,696
Brighton and Hove City PCT	643	1,535
Bristol PCT	1,351	2,675
Bromley PCT	930	1,846
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,371	2,718
Bury PCT (spearhead)	1,196	1,440
Calderdale PCT	641	1,269
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,630	3,239
Camden PCT	631	1,516
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	946	2,266
Central Lancashire PCT (spearhead)	1,866	3,034
City and Hackney Teaching PCT (spearhead)	2,030	2,447
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	1,228	2,948
County Durham PCT (spearhead)	3,193	3,960
Coventry Teaching PCT (spearhead)	1,962	2,432
Croydon PCT	1,072	2,125
Cumbria PCT (spearhead)	2,822	3,753
Darlington PCT	235	562
Derby City PCT	886	1,757
Derbyshire County PCT (spearhead)	2,751	4,621
Devon PCT	2,285	4,543
Doncaster PCT (spearhead)	2,113	2,546
Dorset PCT	1,230	2,443
Dudley PCT	978	1,937
Ealing PCT	1,078	2,133
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,615	3,208
East Lancashire PCT (spearhead)	2,625	3,162
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	646	1,553
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	749	1,794
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,804	4,197
Enfield PCT	645	1,543
Gateshead PCT (spearhead)	1,486	1,789
Gloucestershire PCT	1,729	3,433
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	683	1,458
Greenwich Teaching PCT (spearhead)	1,740	2,098
Halton and St Helens PCT (spearhead)	2,282	2,749
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT (spearhead)	1,276	1,537
Hampshire PCT	2,865	6,431
Haringey Teaching PCT (spearhead)	1,505	1,865
Harrow PCT	434	1,037
Hartlepool PCT (spearhead)	700	843
Hastings and Rother PCT	629	1,249
Havering PCT	787	1,560
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT (spearhead)	1,890	2,345

		£000
	2006-07	2007-08
Herefordshire PCT	556	1,105
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT (spearhead)	1,515	1,825
Hillingdon PCT	767	1,522
Hounslow PCT	737	1,459
Hull PCT (spearhead)	1,615	2,000
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	502	999
Islington PCT (spearhead)	1,347	1,672
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	664	1,327
Kingston PCT	477	947
Kirklees PCT	1,249	2,475
Knowsley PCT (spearhead)	1,318	1,587
Lambeth PCT (spearhead)	1,812	2,246
Leeds PCT	1,687	4,028
Leicester City PCT (spearhead)	2,079	2,504
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,773	3,524
Lewisham PCT (spearhead)	1,558	1,931
Lincolnshire PCT (spearhead)	2,944	4,759
Liverpool PCT (spearhead)	3,345	4,146
Luton PCT	432	1,033
Manchester PCT (spearhead)	3,988	4,805
Medway PCT	834	1,661
Mid Essex PCT	983	1,956
Middlesbrough PCT (Spearhead^	1,105	1,330
Milton Keynes PCT	677	1,351
Newcastle PCT (spearhead)	1,948	2,345
Newham PCT (spearhead)	2,211	2,665
Norfolk PCT	1,598	3,835
North East Essex PCT	1,036	2,060
North East Lincolnshire PCT (spearhead)	1,081	1,302
North Lancashire PCT	1,522	2,340
North Lincolnshire PCT	505	1,003
North Somerset PCT	617	1,227
North Staffordshire PCT	466	1,114
North Tees PCT (spearhead)	1,235	1,489
North Tyneside PCT (spearhead)	1,408	1,696
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2,011	4,224
Northamptonshire PCT (spearhead)	2,900	4,345
Northumberland Care Trust (spearhead)	2,046	2,465
Nottingham City PCT (spearhead)	1,741	2,158
Nottinghamshire County PCT	1,714	3,691
Oldham PCT (spearhead)	1,618	1,949
Oxfordshire PCT	1,717	3,414
Peterborough PCT	544	1,090
Plymouth Teaching PCT	826	1,638
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	428	1,022
Redbridge PCT	751	1,489
Redcar and Cleveland PCT (spearhead)	979	1,179
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	510	1,013
Rotherham PCT (spearhead)	1,723	2,076
Salford PCT (spearhead)	1,761	2,120
Sandwell PCT (spearhead)	2,258	2,718
Sefton PCT	817	1,790
Sheffield PCT	1,272	3,035
Shropshire County PCT	870	1,728
Solihull Care Trust	439	1,049
Somerset PCT	1,604	3,190
South Birmingham PCT (spearhead)	2,057	2,551
South East Essex PCT	747	1,790
South Gloucestershire PCT	657	1,307
South Staffordshire PCT (spearhead)	2,160	3,609
South Tyneside PCT (spearhead)	1,173	1,413
South West Essex PCT	1,276	2,536
Southampton City PCT	787	1,560
Southwark PCT (spearhead)	1,697	2,103
Stockport PCT	901	1,783
Stoke On Trent PCT (spearhead)	1,594	1,975
Suffolk PCT	1,759	3,495
Sunderland Teaching PCT (spearhead)	2,117	2,549
Surrey PCT	3,032	6,011
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,131	2,244
Swindon PCT	578	1,147
Tameside and Glossop PCT (spearhead)	1,598	1,925
Telford and Wrekin PCT	514	1,022
Torbay Care Trust	509	1,012
Tower Hamlets PCT (spearhead)	1,925	2,321
Trafford PCT	696	1,378
Wakefield District PCT (spearhead)	2,350	2,833
Walsall Teaching PCT (spearhead)	1,780	2,144
Waltham Forest PCT	824	1,631
Wandsworth PCT	897	1,775
Warrington PCT (spearhead)	1,221	1,471
Warwickshire PCT (spearhead)	2,147	3,373
West Essex PCT	802	1,592
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,579	3,130
West Kent PCT	1,928	3,825
West Sussex PCT	2,295	4,660
Western Cheshire PCT	558	1,336
Westminster PCT	832	1,665
Wiltshire PCT	1,279	2,543
Wirral PCT (spearhead)	2,007	2,490
Wolverhampton City PCT (spearhead)	1,769	2,130
Worcestershire PCT	1,643	3,263
England	210,500	341,500

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194949]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a single public facing call centre. This has a textphone and accepts calls made using Typetalk.

Horton Hospital: NHS Treatment Centres

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the residual value guarantee is in respect of the independent sector treatment centre at Horton hospital in Banbury. [193684]

Mr. Bradshaw: The residual value guarantee in relation to the Norton NHS Treatment Centre (GC4 North Oxford), procured through Wave 1 of the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme, is £15.1 million. The contract runs until 31 December 2010. The assets at Horton to be acquired upon payment of the residual value include the ISTC building.

All ISTC contracts have been through a robust procurement and approvals process, with value for money being one of the criteria.

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* targets and *(b)* guidelines have been set for trusts to deal with delayed discharge; and what penalty is paid by trusts for delayed discharge of (i) patients with mental health problems and (ii) other patients. [194733]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 'NHS Plan: A plan for investment—a plan for reform' (Cm 48 18-1) contained the commitment to reduce widespread delayed discharges by 2004. Councils and their national health service partners have made significant progress in reducing delays in hospital. Between September 2001 and December 2007 the number of people over the age of 75 delayed in hospital reduced from 5,673 to 1,594, a reduction of 72 per cent. and total delays for the same period were reduced from 7,065 to 2,090, a reduction of 70 per cent. A copy of the NHS Plan is available in the Library.

Guidance on the implementation of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc) Act 2003, including the definition of, and procedures for notifying, delayed discharges was issued on 24 September 2003 as HSC 2003/009 and LAC (2003) 21. This guidance is still current and has not been amended.

NHS trusts to do not pay penalties for delayed discharges.

Hospitals: Parking

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to end the practice of charging fees to patients with blue disability badges at hospital car parks in England. [194681]

Mr. Bradshaw: Charging for car parking is a matter for individual national health service bodies. If they did not charge for car parking then funds for the maintenance and operation of the car park would have to be diverted from patient services. The Department has issued guidance advising NHS bodies to consider the needs of disabled users when planning their car parks and to offer concessions or free parking to those who have to use their car parks regularly, which may include some blue disability badge holders. We have no plans to change these arrangements.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the average waiting time for an operation in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [195033]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average (median) waiting time for inpatient admission at the end of January 2008 was 4.7 weeks.

Hypertension: Drugs

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the cost-effectiveness of pulmonary arterial hypertension drugs is determined; and what assessments were made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of potential quality of life improvements offered by such drugs. [194215]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) draws on a number of different sources of information to appraise the clinical and cost-effectiveness of drugs assessed through its multiple technology appraisals (MTA) process. The different sources of information are set out in more detail in NICE'S 'Guide to the methods of technology appraisal' which can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/TAP_Methods.pdf.

NICE'S appraisal of drugs for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension is currently out for consultation and the appraisal consultation document sets out in detail the evidence for NICE'S draft recommendations.

NHS: Email

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff registered for NHS mail in each month since its inception; and how many were active users in each month. [195261]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table.

	Total active users	*Monthly registered accounts*
31 December 2004	37,810	[1]—
31 January 2005	46,537	8,727
28 February 2005	47,673	1,136
31 March 2005	55,213	7,540
30 April 2005	58,482	3,269
31 May 2005	59,677	1,195
30 June 2005	61,115	1,438
31 July 2005	62,597	1,482
31 August 2005	65,136	2,539
30 September 2005	67,722	2,586
31 October 2005	70,043	2,321
30 November 2005	72,105	2,062
31 December 2005	72,923	818
31 January 2006	75,581	2,658
28 February 2006	77,973	2,392
31 March 2006	80,183	2,210
30 April 2006	80,754	571
31 May 2006	83,788	3,034
30 June 2006	89,786	5,998
31 July 2006	93,871	4,085
31 August 2006	96,900	3,029
30 September 2006	99,343	2,443
31 October 2006	101,850	2,507
30 November 2006	104,503	2,653
31 December 2006	104,594	91
31 January 2007	106,791	2,197
28 February 2007	109,548	2,757
31 March 2007	113,160	3,612
30 April 2007	115,266	2,106
31 May 2007	118,223	2,957
30 June 2007	122,003	3,780
31 July 2007	126,115	4,112
31 August 2007	130,738	4,623
30 September 2007	133,646	2,908
31 October 2007	137,930	4,284
30 November 2007	142,313	4,383
31 December 2007	143,068	755
31 January 2008	146,711	3,643
29 February 2008	153,073	6,362

[1] The number of users registering for the service each month is a calculation based on: (current month active users) minus (last month active users).

Palliative Care: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been implemented in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [194435]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Barnsley PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA.

Prescription Drugs: Side Effects

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been admitted to hospital due to adverse reactions to prescription drugs in each of the last 10 years; [194115]

(2) how many deaths were due to adverse reactions to prescription drugs in each of the last 10 years; [194116]

(3) how many recorded incidents of adverse reactions to prescription drugs there were in each of the last 10 years. [194117]

Dawn Primarolo: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. Approximately 20,000 reports of ADRs are reported to the MHRA/CHM through this scheme each year. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table shows the number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 1997 and 2007 which had a fatal outcome and resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation.

Year received by MHRA	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received with a fatal outcome*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received which resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation*
1997	16,627	447	2,484
1998	18,048	520	2,972
1999	18,484	564	3,212
2000	33,151	632	4,062
2001	21,456	647	3,015
2002	17,610	669	3,630
2003	19,216	735	4,381
2004	19,979	861	4,429
2005	21,856	1,018	4,577
2006	21,511	953	4,628
2007	21,600	1,031	4,545

The number of ADRs stated are subject to change due to the dynamic nature of the MHRA's database. For example duplicate reports may be identified that are subsequently merged into one report.

It is not possible to estimate from the Yellow Card scheme the exact number of people who suffer adverse reactions to drugs since the scheme is associated with an unknown level of under-reporting.

Addressing the impact of ADRs on public health is a key concern for the MHRA. A study funded by the MHRA and published in the *British Medical Journal* on 2 July 2004, was conducted in two large hospitals in Merseyside in order to ascertain the current burden of ADRs in the national health service. The results of the study showed that 6.5 per cent. of hospital admission related to an ADR.

Prescriptions: Packaging

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make representations to the pharmaceutical industry to seek a reduction in the amount of packaging for prescriptions; and if he will make a statement. [194936]

Dawn Primarolo: Many medicines are supplied in manufacturers' original packs to enable the efficient supply of the patient information leaflet which contains important information for the patient on the safe and effective use of the medicine. A constraint is placed on manufacturers not to use excessive packaging through the Packaging Waste Directive administered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. This has both single market and environmental goals and new targets on recycling and recovery were established in 2004. Recycled materials are already being used for outer or secondary packaging such as cartons and the cartons themselves can be recycled once the patient has completed their course of medicine.

Royal Lancaster Infirmary

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received medical treatment at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary in 2007. [194717]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Information relating to Royal Lancaster Infirmary can only be collected at trust level, therefore, the information for University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust has been set out in the following table.

Medical treatment has been defined in terms of in-patient admissions where treatment was provided and outpatient as the number of first attendances.

Total number of inpatient admissions with a procedure/intervention and the number of out-patient first attendances at University Hospitals Morecambe Bay NHS Trust for 2006-07.

2006-07

	Number
Count of out-patient first attendances	144,301
Count of finished admission episodes with a procedure/intervention.	44,211

Notes:

1. First attendance

This indicates whether a patient is making a first attendance or a follow up attendance and whether the consultation was face-to-face or via telephone/telemedicine consultation. Out-patient data would only count a patient's first attendance regardless of the number of subsequent attendances in relation to the same subject. In many out-patient attendances, a patient may be receiving advice, rather than any medical treatment as such. Additionally, the number of out-patient first attendances does not represent the number of patients receiving out-patient care, as a patient may attend more than one first out-patient appointment in the year.

2. Finished admission episodes (FAE)

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Accident and Emergency (A and E)

People may also have received medical treatment in A and E, however HES does not have this data.

4. HES data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. Out-patient data quality

Out-patient HES data were collected for the first time in 2003-04. It is not mandatory to code procedures on outpatient records and therefore only around 2 per cent. of records have completed clinical codes. We have no reliable existing data source to validate this data against, as the Department's aggregate returns data has never collected clinical codes, and therefore it is not clear how representative it is.

6. Appointment count

This provides a count of the number of planned/booked appointments for out-patients.

7. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Sources:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES); Out-patients, The Information Centre for health and social care.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many organisations in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley (i) applied for and (ii) received funds from each different funding programme from the Big Lottery Fund since its creation. [194659]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been 47 applications from applicants within the constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford; of these, 17 received awards, 14 were rejected and 16 applications are currently in assessment.

There have been 328 applications from applicants within the London borough of Bexley; of these, 70 received awards, 206 were rejected and 52 applications are currently in assessment.

The figures relate to the period following The Big Lottery Fund's inception (1 June 2004). The figures do not include Awards for All.

Culture: West Midlands

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* regional central government organisations, *(b)* local government organisations and *(c)* regional offices of non-departmental public bodies in the west midlands include cultural policy within their responsibilities. [193142]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 18 March 2008]*: Those organisations in the west midlands which include cultural policy within their responsibilities are as follows:

(a) Regional central government organisation

The Government office for the west midlands

(b) Local government organisations

We do not hold any information on local government organisations in the west midlands whose remit includes cultural policy.

(c) Regional office of a non-departmental public body (NDPB)

Arts Council England
Culture West Midlands
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
National Heritage Memorial Fund
English Heritage
Sport England

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) does not have a direct cultural remit as such, but it does have tourism responsibility, while culture makes a significant contribution to economic development and regeneration. AWM is a NDPB of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In addition to these NDPBs, the following are active in the region:

Big Lottery Fund
Screen West Midlands
Tourism West Midlands
The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
The Nations and Regions Group

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding has been spent on campaigns against *(a)* racism and *(b)* homophobia in sport since 1997. [194922]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS channels its funding for sport though its non-departmental public bodies Sport England and UK Sport.

Sport England and UK Sport have not directly funded any campaigns designed to combat racism and homophobia.

However, in the current financial year (2007-08) Sport England provided a grant of £317,066 to Sporting Equals, which champions race equality in sport, as well as funding the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, which supports anti-racism campaigns in football like 'Kick it Out' and 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Both Sport England and UK Sport are working in partnership with SportScotland and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland to commission a research project into barriers to participation and the number of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual participants in sport. A total of £25,000 has been invested by partners in the research and producing a guidance resource for governing bodies.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192441]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) gave to him on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [187784]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with principles of government accounting and Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety, as well as the Department's internal guidance on hospitality.

The Department's expenditure on hospitality in the last 12 months (to January 2008) was £82,690.

Similar expenditure by the Department's agency, The Royal Parks, was £30,228. An analysis of expenditure by the categories requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187535]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The reimbursable expenses claimed by senior civil service staff in the last 12 months to January 2008 are as follows:

	£
DCMS	22,383.97
The Royal Parks Agency	99.97

The expenses were reimbursed in accordance with the civil service management code and the Department's guidance on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the sums to be paid by his Department in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193768]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has estimated the amount paid in unoccupied property rates to be £27,936 in 2007-08.

The Department does not expect to pay any unoccupied property rates in 2008-09.

North West Cultural Consortium

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the membership of the North West Cultural Consortium is; and what criteria were used to determine the Consortium's membership. [194454]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: Culture Northwest is a company limited by guarantee and a non-departmental public body.

The directors are recruited through an open advertisement process—Nolan Principles are applied and there is an agreed specification for board members.

Individuals are also appointed as company members to represent key organisations such as regional cultural agencies. Company members may attend and vote at annual general meetings of the company. A list of current company members is as follows:

Culture Northwest also works with 100 formal stakeholders from across the cultural sector, representing a wide range of interests.

Board members:

Loyd Grossman O.B.E., F.S.A. (Chair): Entrepreneur and Broadcaster

Charles Lauder (Deputy Chair): Joint Director of Talawa Consulting and Talawa Film and Television

Amy de Joia: Executive Director of Development and Communications, National Museums Liverpool

Andrew Spinoza: Managing Director, SKV PR

Andy Farrall: Strategic Director Environment and Regeneration, Warrington Borough Council

Beatrice Fraenkel: Chair, RENEW North West

Bryan Gray M.B.E.: Chairman, North West Regional Development Agency and Liverpool Culture Company

Cecilia Wong: Executive Director, Centre for Urban Policy Studies, University of Manchester

Kate Willard: Consultant

Libby Raper: Chief Executive, Culture Northwest

Marc Etches: Director, Insight

Nadine Andrews: Freelance Consultant

Peter Fell: Director of Regional and Economic Affairs, University of Manchester

Sir Philip Craven, M.B.E.: President, International Paralympic Committee

Sue Woodward: Managing Director, ITV Granada

Company members:

Alex Poots: Manchester International Festival
Alice Morrison: NW Vision and Media
Clare Connor: MLA NW
Culture Company: representative to be confirmed
David Fleming: National Museums Liverpool
Fran Toms: Manchester City Council
Henry Owen-John: English Heritage
John Devine: NW Churches Association
Lesa Dryburgh: NW Clore Fellow
Michael Eakin: Arts Council England NW
Michelle McNamee: Big Lottery Fund
Peter Mearns: North West Regional Development Agency
Rodney Hill: Wigan Culture and Leisure Trust, representing Chief Culture and Leisure Groups
Rt Rev Stephen Lowe: Bishop of Liverpool, representing Faith in regeneration
Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport: represented by Janet Matthewman, Government Office for the North West
Simon Crawshaw: North West Regional Assembly
Stewart Kellett: Sport England NW
Tiffany Hunt: National Trust

Sports: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how long on average was spent on sport and physical activity per week by children aged five to 16 years in each of the last 10 years. [195433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2006-07 School Sport Survey showed that 86 per cent. of pupils aged five to 16 in maintained schools in England now participate in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week, exceeding the 2008 target of 85 per cent. a year early.

In previous years the survey demonstrated that 62 per cent. of school children achieved this target in 2003-04; 69 per cent. in 2004-05 and 80 per cent. in 2005-06. No data are available prior to commencement of the strategy in 2003.

DCMS and DCSF continue to work closely through the new PE and Sport Strategy for Young People to offer all children and young people, aged five to 16 years, five hours of sport a week from April 2008.

Sports: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the spend per capita was of *(a)* public funding and *(b)* Lottery funding for sport in each of the last three years. [194928]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Using information from the Office for National Statistics website, the estimated population of England in each of the last three years is as follows:

Population, England

	Million
Mid-2005	50.432
Mid-2006	50.763
Mid-2007	51.017

Based on the aforementioned information, the following tables show spend on sport per capita in England for the last three years from:

(a) Public funding

Financial year	*Spend per capita (£)*
2005-06	5.44
2006-07	7.48
2007-08	7.96

It should be noted that the Exchequer aforementioned figures include funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Capital Modernisation Fund for School Sport and Space for Sports and Arts respectively.

(b) Lottery funding

Financial year	*Spend per capita (£)*
2005-06	8.31
2006-07	6.77
2007-08	4.16

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in the next financial year. [191018]

Kevin Brennan: To continue to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in 2008/09 my Department has taken the following steps:

Findings from Carbon Trust energy surveys on our Headquarters buildings are being addressed within my Department's Environmental Management System.

A continuing major refurbishment project in our London Headquarters building is expected to generate significant reductions in energy use through adoption of new ways of working and energy conserving lighting.

Launching and delivering an internal communications campaign to raise awareness on sustainability issues, highlight successes and initiate activities to lead to a more careful use of resources.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 404W, on the departmental intranet, which Minister amended an entry; what that amendment was; how he is able to identify that the change was made by a Minister; and if he will make a statement. [195355]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 18 March 2008]*: Lord Adonis amended an entry on Wikipedia and not the departmental intranet. The Minister corrected a page about himself on Wikipedia which was factually incorrect. The Minister responded to an internal request for information.

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities were approached on or before 6 March 2008 in relation to specific issues needing addressing in relation to their primary capital programme strategies; and if he will make a statement. [193498]

Jim Knight: None. The situation remains as outlined in my 17 February written reply to the hon. Member. We are reviewing how best to manage this commitment and will notify local authorities in due course.

Pupil Exclusions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils were excluded *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently excluded from school for possession of a knife in the latest period for which figures are available; [194849]

(2) how many pupils were excluded *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently from schools for possession or use of (i) alcohol and (ii) illegal drugs in each of the last three years. [194651]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is shown in the table, and shows the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from secondary schools by reason for exclusion.

There are 12 categories describing the various reasons for exclusion. There is no specific category relating to possession of a knife or possession of illegal drugs.

DCSF guidance states that a head teacher can exclude a pupil permanently for supplying an illegal drug and that the Secretary of State would not normally expect the governing body or an appeal panel to reinstate such a pupil. Illegal drugs have no place in schools and harm children's learning, health and behaviour. We have made clear that we support head teachers and governing bodies together with local partners including the police in their efforts to tackle illegal drugs in schools.

Exclusions data relating to the 2006/07 school year are expected to be published in June 2008, and the scope of information on reasons for exclusion will extend to also include primary and special schools.

Maintained secondary schools[1,2]: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion—England, 2005/06

	Number of permanent exclusions[3]	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3,4]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]
Physical assault against a pupil	1,260	16	62,670	18
Physical assault against an adult	740	9	8,240	2
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	330	4	12,730	4
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	900	11	79,370	23
Bullying	80	1	5,270	2
Racist abuse	30	0	3,370	1
Sexual misconduct	110	1	2,620	1
Drug and alcohol related	450	6	8,360	2
Damage	170	2	9,390	3
Theft	220	3	7,770	2
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,370	30	72,340	21
Other	1,340	17	71,720	21
Total[5]	7,990	100	343,840	100

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on the reason for exclusion will also be collected from primary and special schools.

[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.

[4] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.

[5] There were two permanent and four fixed period exclusions for which circumstance was not known—these were included in the 'total' column only.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were excluded temporarily from school in each of the last three years. [194869]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by type of school England, 2003/04 to 2005/06[3]

	2003/04[3,4]	2004/05[4]	2005/06[5]
Primary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	41,300	43,720	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	12	11	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	0.97	1.04	n/a

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by type of school England, 2003/04 to 2005/06[3]

	2003/04[3,4]	*2004/05[4]*	*2005/06[5]*
Secondary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	288,040	329,680	343,840
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	84	85	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	8.66	9.94	10.40
Special schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	15,170	16,170	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	4	4	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	17.45	18.91	n/a
All schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	344,510	389,560	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	100	100	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	4.49	5.12	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.

[3] In 2003/04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time.

[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from Termly Exclusion Survey returns.

[5] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.

[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number.

[7] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were missing from education in the area covered by Derby City Education Authority in the last school year, broken down by *(a)* school, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnicity. [194807]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are deeply concerned about any child or young person who is missing from education. That is why we introduced a new statutory duty in February 2007 for local authorities to put robust systems in place to identify any child not receiving a suitable education, and provided guidance on how to implement this duty.

We do not collect nationally the data my hon. Friend has asked for but my Department has recently asked a number of local authorities to provide a snapshot of the number of children known to be not receiving a suitable education. Derby city council was one of these local authorities and the information it provided indicated that there were 121 children identified as not being in receipt of a suitable education, as of 6 March 2008.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the change in the frequency of personal travel and car usage in rural areas resulting from the closure of rural schools. [187441]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data on personal travel and car usage in rural areas.

When considering proposals to close a rural school the local authority or schools adjudicator, whichever is the decision maker, must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The guidance makes clear that the decision maker must have regard to the presumption against closing rural schools and must take account of several other factors in coming to a decision, including the length and nature of journeys to alternative provision and the impact on the community.

In the 10 years since 1998, when the Government introduced the presumption against closing rural schools, the number of rural schools closing each year is as follows:

	Number
1998	5
1999	2
2000	2
2001	3
2002	5
2003	12
2004	9
2005	8
2006	7
2007	8

Note:

The figures show actual school closures and not amalgamations such as infant and junior schools coming together to form a primary school.

Local authorities are under a duty to ensure that suitable home to school travel arrangements are made, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school. In the Department's view, arrangements could not be considered suitable where they resulted in an unreasonably long journey time.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will answer Question 182839 on bullying in his Department and its agencies tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 23 January 2008. [193351]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 406W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Property

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164363]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is provided in the following table and includes the properties used for delivery of benefits and employment support across the country.

The figures shown include the nationwide rollout of the new Jobcentre Plus network, as well as other major departmental initiatives in The Pension Service and Debt Management.

	Expenditure (£ million)
2002-03	170.0
2003-04	282.3
2004-05	117.3
2005-06	278.9
2006-07	162.2

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* central departmental and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus employees who are off work because of (i) stress, (ii) depression and (iii) other mental health conditions. [189872]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP, in common with other Government Departments, records sickness absences against a list of standard definitions. Absences attributed to stress, depression and other mental health conditions are recorded under the single category of "Depression, anxiety and other mental health issues".

The following table shows the number of employees in our departmental centre and Jobcentre Plus who, according to current data held on the personnel computer system, were off work for reasons attributed to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues on 31 January 2008.

The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to reducing sickness absences caused by depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Our approach is to support employees, for example by providing access to professional stress counselling, and to use qualified occupational health advice to help them return to work when they do take sick leave.

Business	*Number of staff*	*As percentage of total staff in that Business*
Departmental Centre	66	0.6
Jobcentre Plus	684	0.9

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187657]

Mrs. McGuire: All travel arrangements in DWP and in the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive (HSC/E), which it sponsors, are made in the most efficient and cost effective way through our contracted suppliers. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the DWP Business Travel Policy and Expenses Guidance which is available to its staff on DWP's intranet site. HSC/E's arrangements and equivalent guidance is available to its staff on its intranet site.

The information requested on expenditure on first class travel is provided in the following table. Information on expenditure by staff grade is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spend on first class travel (January 2007 to January 2008)

	£
DWP	13,069,791
Health and Safety Commission/Executive	1,595,908
Total	14,665,699

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* second class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187739]

Mrs. McGuire: All travel arrangements in DWP and in the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive (HSC/E), which it sponsors, are made in the most efficient and cost effective way through contracted suppliers. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the DWP Business Travel Policy and Expenses Guidance which is available to all DWP staff on its intranet site. HSC/E's arrangements and equivalent guidance is available to its staff on its intranet site.

The information requested on expenditure on first and standard class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months is provided in the table as follows.

Spend on Eurostar (January 2007 to January 2008)

	First Class	Standard Class	£ Total
DWP	92,664	16,560	109,224
Health and Safety Commission/Executive	11,043	8,869	19,912
Total	103,707	25,429	129,136

Pensions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely net cost of restoring the link between pensions and earnings in April 2008 in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11, *(d)* 2011-12, *(e)* 2020-21, *(f)* 2025-26 and *(g)* 2030-31. [172164]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Net additional cost of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2008, £ billion, 2007-08 prices

	(a) 2008-09	*(b) 2009-10*	*(c) 2010-11*	*(d) 2011-12*	*(e) 2020-21*	*(f) 2025-26*	*(g) 2030-31*
Net additional annual cost	-0.2	0.2	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.4
Net additional cumulative cost	-0.2	-0.1	0.9	2.6	20.2	32.7	48.3

Notes:

1. Estimates are additional to the baseline assumption of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2012.
2. Estimates are presented in net terms reflecting that the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments have been estimated using the Department's policy simulation model and are assumed to remain constant over time.
3. In the financial years up to and including 2013-14 Treasury economic assumptions consistent with Budget 2008 have been used to model earnings uprating. After this point a long term earnings growth assumption of 4.93 per cent. has been applied.
4. Estimates are in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.

Source:

DWP modelling

Social Security Benefits: Publicity

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department allocated to campaigns to promote benefit take-up in each year for which figures are available. [192818]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns to promote benefit take-up each year. The following table details spend on marketing campaigns run by the Department in each of the last six complete financial years, for which figures are available.

The Department's main focus for working age customers is to promote work as the best route out of poverty, with benefits as a support for those who cannot work, and for people in the process of seeking work.

The Department was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department for Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental marketing costs

	(£000)
2006-07	
Pension credit	2,040
Winter fuel	469
2005-06	
Pension credit	910
Council tax benefit	743
Winter fuel	1,420
2004-05	
Council tax benefit	771
Pension credit	5,580
Winter fuel	940
2003-04	
Council tax benefit	673
Pension credit	12,199
Winter fuel	996
Pension service awareness[1]	906
2002-03	
Winter fuel	484
2001-02	
Minimum income guarantee	3,365

[1] The main objective of The Pension Service awareness campaign was to promote awareness and take up of pension credit.

Notes

1. The figures provided in the table include costs relating to the delivery of advertising and marketing campaigns for example production, media, distribution and agency costs.
2. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give consideration to replacing the 25 pence pension increase at 80-years-old with a consolidated cash payment. [194881]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We keep these issues under consideration but we have not announced any proposal to do this. We recognise that older pensioners on the whole need help more than others and, since 1997 we have introduced a whole range of measures which have targeted significant extra help on older pensioners. These includes: winter fuel payment of £300 and an additional payment for this year, alongside the winter fuel payment, of £100 to households with someone aged 80 or over, free TV licences; age related personal income tax allowance for the over 75s; and pension credit is of particular benefit to this age-group. Over a third of those entitled to pension credit are over the age of 80.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the cadet forces was in each year since 1997, broken down by type of cadet. [193884]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The strength of the various cadet forces since 1997 is:

	Sea Cadets	*Army Cadets*	*Air Cadets*	*Combined cadet force*
1997	15,161	39,827	32,918	n/a
1998	15,237	40,692	33,499	n/a
1999	14,497	42,114	33,943	40,012
2000	14,361	42,491	33,592	40,551
2001	13,771	40,639	33,281	40,783
2002	13,596	42,486	33,922	40,970
2003	13,310	44,471	34,099	41,267
2004	12,879	44,391	32,394	41,908
2005	12,280	44,793	31,101	42,461
2006	12,738	44,426	30,695	42,032
2007	12,438	44,604	29,981	42,593

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget for spending on cadets was in each year since 1997; and what the budget is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [193886]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure by each Service on the cadet forces is as follows:

£ million

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	18
1998-99	n/a	n/a	19
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	18
2000-01	n/a	n/a	19
2001-02	n/a	n/a	20
2002-03	8.9	37.1	22
2003-04	8.6	37.1	25
2004-05	8.9	34.98	27
2005-06	9.6	39.24	28
2006-07	8.9	41.18	31
2007-08	[1]9.6	[1]42.20	[1]31
2008-09	[2]—	[2]—	31
2009-10	[2]—	[2]—	32
2010-11	[2]—	[2]—	33

[1] Forecast outturn.

[2] Expenditure on cadets is charged to a number of different budgets and not all types of fixture expenditure are set specifically for the cadet forces.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of non-UK personnel in the armed forces are *(a)* single and *(b)* accompanied by dependents. [194777]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number and percentage of full-time non-UK Personnel serving in the UK armed forces[1] who are single, by Service. Details of the number of dependents are not available prior to the introduction of JPA. Following the introduction of JPA data are held on the number of dependents but these have not yet been validated. To validate these data at this time would incur disproportionate costs.

Numbers/percentage

	Total non-UK nationals	*Non-UK nationals[4] with single status*	*Percentage*
Naval Service[2] at 1 October 2006	644	403	63
Army[2] at 1 March 2007	6,980	3,880	56
RAF[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—

[1] UK armed forces comprise UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas and FTRS personnel. It does not include the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment or mobilised reservists.

[2] Information is not held centrally for the Naval Service after 1 October 2006, and for Army after 1 March 2007, following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Strengths figures are shown as at the most recent available date for each individual Service.

[3] Although marital status information on RAF personnel is held prior to the implementation of JPA, it is not possible to produce an analysis of this by Nationality.

[4] Nationality figures are based on those with a known Nationality only.

[5] unavailable .

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Percentages are calculated from unrounded data.

Source:

(DASA Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on promoting recruitment to the armed forces overseas in each year since 2003. [193882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces do not actively recruit overseas with the exception of Gurkhas from Nepal. However, in recent years the Royal Navy and the Army have sent selection teams to some Commonwealth countries at the specific request of the government concerned, and only then when evidence suggests that there is sufficient interest amongst the local population to merit a visit. The selection teams screen out those who are not thought capable of meeting the full entry standards, to save them the cost of an abortive trip to the UK to undergo the recruitment selection process. The costs incurred as a result of the overseas selection team visits were as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2003-04	127,700
2004-05	125,100
2005-06	80,000
2006-07	180,000
2007-08	[1]150,000

[1] To date.

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 100

Gurkha recruitment policy is different to that for the regular UK armed forces. Recruitment to the Brigade of Gurkhas is conducted once a year, in Nepal. A selection team travels to Nepal from the UK to assist the in-country recruiting team with the selection process. The costs incurred by the recruiting team from outside Nepal were as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2003-04	33,000
2004-05	33,000
2005-06	40,000
2006-07	32,800
2007-08	42,900

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

The cost relating to the in-country recruiting team in Nepal are not readily available and I will write to the hon. Member with this information in due course.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military vehicles were designated beyond economic repair in each year since 2003. [193883]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of military vehicles designated beyond economic repair in each year since 2003 is as follows:

Vehicle type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All vehicles	301	264	226	218	136
4 tonne	9	6	5	11	1
8 tonne	2	2	1	3	2
14 tonne	—	—	—	1	1
Ambulance	—	3	1	1	—
Articulated vehicles	5	4	1	1	—
BV206	1	—	—	—	—
Car saloons	170	179	145	121	90
DROPS IMMLC	—	—	—	1	—
DROPS MMLC	4	—	1	4	3
Fire fighting vehicles	2	—	—	—	—
Fuel vehicles	2	1	1	3	—
Mini buses	17	14	14	14	8
Misc Engr and Trials	1	—	—	—	—
Motor coaches	—	—	2	3	—
Motorcycle	3	4	2	2	1
Other cargo vehicles	5	11	5	5	6
Plant vehicles	2	—	—	—	—
Recovery vehicles	1	2	1	—	—
Special vehicle	—	2	1	3	1
Tracked A vehicle	—	—	—	3	3
TUH	—	—	—	—	—
TUMHD	—	—	1	1	—
TUM/TUL	49	24	28	28	10
Vans	28	12	17	13	10

Armed Forces: Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what size the armed forces' stockpiles of *(a)* M85 and *(b)* CRV-7 munitions are; and when these weapons' lifespan expire. [194427]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding information relating both to the size of the stockpile of M85 and CRV-7 munitions and to their out of service dates, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

In addition, the shelf life of individual munitions or components is established in conjunction with the manufacturer and will vary depending on the date of manufacture. At the end of this period, the shelf life may be extended, subject to appropriate MOD in-house surveillance and trials programmes, should there be a continuing requirement for the capability. The shelf life of munitions of the same type in the stockpile will therefore vary.

Chelsea Barracks: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2343-44W, on Chelsea Barracks: sales, what the *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation expenditure profiles were prior to the decision to apportion the proceeds of the sale of Chelsea Barracks for service and accommodation. [194423]

Derek Twigg: The Department has taken a targeted and long-term approach to investing in accommodation, taking account of defence priorities across the board and the need to ensure value from public money.

The sale of Chelsea Barracks was contained within our forward financial plans and therefore its completion has secured planned investment in service accommodation of some £250 million in the current financial year and £550 million over the next three years, with the balance in the next settlement period. Additionally, as announced by the Secretary of State last year, it has enabled this Department to further increase expenditure on single living accommodation by £80 million. This will deliver an additional 1,350 new bed-spaces.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the implementation of through life capability management has affected the ways in which his Department *(a)* acquires and *(b)* supports equipment; and what equipment is covered by through life capability management. [195105]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Through Life Capability Management is an approach to the acquisition and in-service management of military capability in which every aspect of new and existing military capability is planned and managed coherently from cradle to grave. This is leading to better solutions for defence and the taxpayer by ensuring that decisions are taken with better knowledge of all defence lines of development, including up-front acquisition costs and through-life support.

Through Life Capability Management covers all equipment which contributes to the delivery of military capability.

Departmental Buildings

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which central offices occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people. [166832]

Derek Twigg: Government Departments are subject to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which requires them to make reasonable access arrangements for disabled people. The MOD acts within the Act and Part M of the Building Regulations for England and Wales (and their equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland). Consequently the Department takes all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Records of all fully accessible buildings are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Depleted Uranium: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the gun barrels used in test firing of depleted uranium shells at the Dundrennan test range are stored; and whether they are to be sent to another site for *(a)* long-term storage and *(b)* disposal. [194119]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The gun barrel used to fire CHARM 3 Depleted Uranium rounds, as part of the life extension trial firings on 11 and 12 March, at the Ministry of Defence's Kirkcudbright Range at Dundrennan, was previously stored at the Eskmeals Range in Cumbria.

20 rounds in total were fired and the barrel was monitored before and after each firing. On completion of the life extension trial the barrel and fume extractor were checked for any signs of contamination before being returned to Eskmeals on 13 March for further monitoring and to await disposal. Disposal planning is at an early stage and it is therefore too early to confirm the disposal site. Any contaminated parts of the barrel would, however, be disposed of in accordance with arrangements agreed with the regulatory authorities responsible for environmental protection.

EU Defence Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the national resources to be used for EU Defence, as mentioned in Chapter 2, Section 1, Article 13 of the Treaty of Lisbon. [195288]

Des Browne: Article 28 (2) (Article 41(2) in the new numbering) of the Lisbon Treaty states that:

> "In cases where expenditure is not charged to the Union budget, it shall be charged to the member states in accordance with the gross national product scale, unless the Council acting unanimously decides otherwise."

This language is the same as that in the current Treaty on European Union. The budget for EU defence policy covering civilian activities is drawn from the Common Foreign Security Policy (CFSP) budget. National contributions to this budget are based on a Gross National Product scale.

Military operations are not funded from the CFSP budget, but are instead paid for on an ad-hoc basis by contributions directly from EU member states. In 2004, the Council acting unanimously set up the ATHENA mechanism for the funding of the common costs of EU military missions. Under this EU member states pay for specified agreed common costs for EU military missions on a Gross National Income scale. The majority of mission costs are provided by troop contributing nations on a "costs lie where they fall" basis.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance is available to members of the armed services who have been invalided out of the service; what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* representations he has received on this issue since 2006; what plans he has to increase the assistance available; and if he will make a statement. [190802]

Derek Twigg: We take our responsibilities for those who are invalided out of the armed forces seriously. For those requiring assistance, MOD provides health care and welfare support in service but, at service termination, the primary responsibility passes to the normal civilian agencies, including the ex-service charities. Since October 2007 we have put in place a new care pathway for the most seriously injured to ensure they receive the appropriate support as they need. The Department's Veterans Welfare Service is there to provide advice on issues such as entitlement to pensions and compensation under the Department's no-fault schemes. In the case of the severely injured, the welfare service monitors those discharged for a period of at least two years to provide advice should difficulties arise.

Working together with civilian and third sector agencies, our aim is to achieve smooth and seamless transition. Those invalided from service are eligible for the MOD's full resettlement package (including support into work where this is appropriate and, automatic configuration of pension). Where the invaliding disorder is due to service, no fault compensation benefits will be assessed and paid and, for the relevant condition, the individual will be eligible for NHS priority treatment with additional benefits such as free prescriptions.

As Veterans Minister, I meet regularly with veterans and the ex-service organisations. Topics raised since 2006 have included priority treatment, civilian benefits, housing compensation, civilian mental health services for veterans and the issues of cultural understanding that can arise for those who have served when they seek help from civilian health professionals. Officials from MOD, other Government Departments, the devolved administrations and the charities are working together to address all key concerns, communicating existing entitlements to all those involved, and areas where improvements might be made to arrangements for ensuring seamless transition. I recently met colleague ministers from Department of Health, Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government and also my counterpart in the Scottish Executive, when we confirmed our determination to provide excellent support to veterans especially those injured or made ill by service.

Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new armoured fighting vehicles were despatched to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since British troops were deployed to each country. [193406]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding information on the number of armoured vehicles deployed as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Iraq: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to date to the public purse has been of prosecutions, trial proceedings and internal military investigations and proceedings concerned with the death of Mr. Baha Musa in Iraq in British custody. [186370]

Des Browne: It has not been possible to collate all the necessary information within the required timescale. The following figures are for those costings available to date, though they are not final sums.

Army Criminal Legal Aid Authority costs for all defence teams are £8,140,696.91. The Military Court Service costs, including costs for witnesses, transcription, hotel bills, catering, interpreters and miscellaneous items, are £363,800. The Army Prosecuting Authority costs, including those for the Judicial Review, are £1,231,240.

I will write to the hon. Member once the costings for other areas have been received.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Harry Cohen:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 18 February (Official Report, columns 101-102W) about the costs to date to the public purse of prosecution trial proceedings and internal military investigations concerned with the death of Mr Baha Mousa in Iraq whilst in British custody.

Most of the costs for internal military investigations were met from within the normal operating budgets of the Department and the Royal Military Police units involved. These costs are not recorded separately.

The exception to this is where the Royal Military Police sought external assistance from interpreters and forensic experts. The costs associated with these are as follows:

Forensic Investigations: £14,926.61

Interpretation Costs: £12,074.10

Iraq: Disabled

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have been rendered disabled on service in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since British forces were deployed to each of those countries. [193449]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number of Service personnel rendered disabled while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a pension for disablement caused by service before 6 April 2005 is published in the "War Pension Quarterly Statistics" by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), however these reports do not contain information on where the disablement was caused. Copies of the War Pensions Quarterly Statistics are available on the DASA website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/pensions/introduction.html

Injuries caused on or after 6 April 2005 fall to be compensated under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme ("AFCS"). Quarterly statistics on AFCS will be published by DASA in due course. As with war pensions, AFCS published statistics will not contain information relating to place of injury.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many awards for *(a)* bravery and *(b)* distinguished service were issued to personnel who had served in Iraq in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) service, (ii) rank and (iii) regiment. [195380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It has not been possible to collate the necessary information in the format requested within the required timescale. I can however provide aggregate figures as follows:

Service	*Gallantry*	*Meritorious service*	*Total*
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	32	77	109
Army	328	310	638
Royal Air Force	43	70	113
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	—	5	5
Total	403	462	865

The Army figures can be further broken out into regiment follows:

Regt/Corps	*Gallantry*	*Meritorious service*	*Total*
Household Cavalry Regiment	7	—	7
1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards	6	6	12
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	2	2	4
The Royal Dragoon Guards	—	1	1
The Queen's Royal Hussars	4	2	6
9th/12th Royal Lancers	—	1	1
The King's Royal Hussars	3	3	6
The Light Dragoons	—	4	4
The Queen's Royal Lancers	4	5	9
Royal Tank Regiment	1	4	5
The Queens Own Yeomanry	—	2	2
Royal Artillery	14	27	41
Royal Engineers	20	40	60
Royal Corps of Signals	2	15	17
Grenadier Guards	2	—	2
Coldstream Guards	2	2	4
Scots Guards	3	3	6
Irish Guards	7	3	10
Welsh Guards	3	5	8
Royal Regiment of Scotland	34	14	48
Princess of Wales' s Royal Regiment	43	4	47
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	7	5	12
Royal Anglian Regiment	9	4	13
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	15	12	27

Regt/Corps	*Gallantry*	*Meritorious service*	*Total*
The Yorkshire Regiment	4	10	14
The Mercian Regiment	6	6	12
The Royal Welsh	19	4	23
The Rifles	35	10	45
The Royal Irish Regiment	5	5	10
The Parachute Regiment	29	10	39
The London Regiment	1	—	1
The Royal Gurkha Rifles	—	1	1
Queen's Gurkha Engineers	—	1	1
Royal Army Chaplains Department	—	1	1
Army Air Corps	5	2	7
The Royal Logistic Corps	16	41	57
Royal Army Medical Corps	6	16	22
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	12	12	24
Adjutant General's Corps	2	13	15
Small Arms School Corps	—	1	1
Intelligence Corps	—	9	9
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	—	4	4
TOTAL	328	310	638

I will write to the hon. Member with more detailed information when this has been collated

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rocket attacks there were on Basra airbase in each year since 2003. [195381]

Des Browne: The first recorded instance of a rocket attack on the Contingency Operating Base (COB) in Basra was in May 2004. The number of attacks against the COB in each year since that time is provided in the following table.

	Number of attacks
2004	12
2005	8
2006	75
2007	400
2008	37

The figure for 2008 includes attacks up to 17 February. More than one rocket may have been fired in any individual attack.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel from *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire were serving in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan at the latest date for which figures are available. [195423]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the UK residential location of armed forces personnel is not held centrally in databases of individual records and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports were filed regarding *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft in each year since 2003. [193877]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD Form 760 is the mandated process for users to report aircraft faults which include, accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, and the failure of items fitted to the aircraft. Information on the numbers of such reports raised on the requested aircraft types in each year is shown in the following table.

Aircraft type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
C-17 Globemaster	69	46	127	203	181
C-130K Hercules	56	38	35	40	9
C-130J Hercules	14	17	2	1	18
TriStar	7	6	8	6	8
VC-10	31	41	33	19	16

The data do not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and do not, therefore, differentiate between what might later prove to have been operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do the data indicate the severity of the failure which might have had no discernable impact on operational capability or safety. These figures do not include any instances of equipment defects that have not been formally reported by the user.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports were filed for each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year since 2003. [193876]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD Form 760 is the mandated process for the users to report aircraft faults which include, accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, and the failure of items fitted to the aircraft. Information on the numbers of such reports raised on the requested aircraft types in each year is shown in the following table.

Helicopter type	*Service*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Agusta A109A/AM—includes engines	Army	0	4	1	1	0	0
Attack AH Mk1	Army	289	590	432	308	283	50
Engine—RRTM 322- 120		2	0	2	9	7	1
Chinook Mk2/2a	RAF	67	64	50	50	61	20
Engine—T55		6	1	0	1	2	0
Gazelle	Army	40	50	53	25	17	3

Helicopter type	*Service*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Engine—TM 3N2		n/a	5	7	6	1	1
Lynx Mk3/Mk8	RN	95	65	72	81	70	13
Engine—RR Gem 204		5	4	9	9	3	0
Lynx Mk7/Mk9	Army	168	182	146	92	127	20
Engine—RR Gem 205		3	5	8	9	3	0
Merlin Mk1	RN	n/a	198	278	282	118	59
Engine—RRTM 322- 100		0	2	5	3	4	0
Merlin Mk3	RAF	n/a	48	41	22	41	15
Engine—RRTM 322-200		0	2	3	3	1	0
Puma	RAF	33	42	27	27	23	2
Engine—TM 3C4		n/a	2	3	5	4	0
Sea King—All Mks	RN and RAF	168	163	146	227	155	24
Engine all Mks—RR Gnome		n/a	42	17	28	22	0

[1] To date

Figures are marked as not available (n/a) where MOD Form 760s have been archived and therefore not recorded on the electronic database. Helicopter engines are administered by a single integrated project team and are identified separately.

The data do not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and do not, therefore, differentiate between what might later prove to have been operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do the data indicate the severity of the failure which might have had no discernable impact on operational capability or safety. These figures do not include any instances of equipment defects that have not been formally reported by the user.

National Army Museum

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the correspondence between the Curator of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Regimental Museum, Armagh, dated 1 February 2008 and the Director of the National Army Museum on the National Army Museum's policies on co-operation with Regimental and Corps Museums seeking access to its archives; and if he will make a statement. [187820]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* I will write to my hon. Friend.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what increases there have been in the planned capability of Type 45 destroyers since the stating of an intention to order *(a)* up to 12 and *(b)* eight such vessels. [193139]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Type 45 Air Defence destroyer is planned to operate with the Co-operative Engagement Capability system which greatly enhances the ship's maritime air defence capability. In the light of this improved networked capability, reduced conventional threat and our revised concurrency assumptions, we assessed that we would need fewer of these platforms.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Royal Navy *(a)* destroyers, *(b)* frigates, *(c)* submarines, *(d)* mine countermeasure vessels, *(e)* patrol vessels, *(f)* amphibious assault vessels and *(g)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels underwent the Storob process (i) in each year since 2003 and (ii) in each month since January 2005. [193085]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of times that items or components of ships' fitted equipment have been transferred between vessels in front line service is as follows:

	Destroyers	*Frigates*	*Submarines*	*MCMVs*	*Patrol vessels*	*Amphibious assault vessel*	*RFA vessels*
2003	5	64	116	10	4	4	13
2004	56	57	169	36	3	12	19
2005							
January	17	14	21	2	0	3	4

	Destroyers	*Frigates*	*Submarines*	*MCMVs*	*Patrol vessels*	*Amphibious assault vessel*	*RFA vessels*
February	7	8	37	3	0	0	0
March	2	4	16	1	0	2	0
April	1	5	19	7	0	1	0
May	1	2	23	0	0	0	1
June	2	6	25	1	0	0	0
July	1	2	19	1	0	1	0
August	2	3	23	1	2	0	1
September	1	1	18	0	0	0	1
October	0	3	12	3	0	1	0
November	1	5	20	1	0	3	2
December	0	0	22	0	0	1	0
Total	35	53	255	20	2	12	9
2006							
January	1	9	25	0	0	5	4
February	2	7	27	5	0	2	1
March	1	10	37	1	1	2	1
April	2	4	20	0	1	1	1
May	0	3	24	0	0	0	1
June	2	5	17	3	0	1	0
July	2	2	15	1	0	0	0
August	0	3	16	3	0	0	0
September	0	0	22	1	0	6	1
October	2	11	20	4	0	1	0
November	1	10	11	1	2	0	0
December	1	9	10	0	0	0	0
Total	15	73	244	19	4	18	9
2007							
January	1	7	19	1	0	1	3
February	0	8	16	3	0	0	0
March	8	11	30	0	0	13	0
April	1	0	23	3	0	1	2
May	0	4	8	0	0	0	0
June	4	3	14	2	1	0	0
July	2	6	27	1	0	0	0
August	0	1	16	0	0	0	1
September	3	3	23	2	1	0	18
October	1	11	10	2	0	1	3
November	0	8	15	0	0	1	3
December	2	4	11	0	0	1	1
Total	22	66	212	14	2	18	31

The accuracy of all figures is subject to the availability of relevant data and may be subject to revision. Figures for 2003 and 2005 update those provided in the answer given by my predecessor on 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1951W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unexpected defects in new classes of ships entering service since 2006 have been reported; and what the defect was in each case. [193095]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No new classes of RN ships have entered service since 2006 though the Bay class of ships has entered service with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. But, as explained in an answer from my predecessor to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 373W, making public the temporary defects in equipment onboard Royal Navy ships would allow an assessment to be made of the operational capability of the fleet and disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Weapons: Testing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which days in 2008 to date test firings of CHARM3 tank ammunition have taken place; what the reasons were for these test firings; and what further tests are planned in 2008. [194131]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Test firings of 20 rounds of 120 mm CHARM 3 Challenger Tank ammunition took place on 11 and 12 March 2008. No further firings are planned.

The CHARM 3 round is the main anti-armour nature used by the British Army and there is an ongoing requirement for its capability. The shelf life of the stockpile is due to expire in 2009 and, as is normal practice where there is a continuing requirement, arrangements were made to extend its life. As part of the life extension programme, rigorous in-service surveillance testing is required to ensure that the munitions remain safe and suitable for continued service. The final element of this process involved live proof firings at Kirkcudbright.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Education

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing for education in Afghanistan *(a)* in budget support, *(b)* directly to non-governmental organisations and *(c)* by other means in 2007-08. [194519]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the education sector by putting the majority of our money through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). Through our contribution to the ARTF, DFID helps to fund the Afghan Government's recurrent budget which pays the salaries of public servants, including teachers. Since 2002 we have contributed £240 million to the ARTF, including £55 million this financial year. We plan to contribute £60 million in 2008-09. DFID does not provide for education in Afghanistan via budget support or directly through NGOs.

Afghanistan: Child Mortality

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to advance progress towards Millennium Development Goal 4 in Afghanistan. [194517]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There have been significant improvements in meeting Millennium Development Goal 4 (decreasing child mortality) in Afghanistan since 2001: infant mortality has reduced to 135 per 1,000 in 2006 from 165 per 1,000 in 2003 and 76 per cent. of children under the age of five have been immunised against childhood diseases.

The Department of International Development provides support to the health sector by funding the Afghan Government's recurrent budget which pays the salaries of public servants, including doctors and health workers. Since 2002 we have contributed £240 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), including £55 million this financial year. We plan to contribute £60 million in 2008-09.

Afghanistan: Malnutrition

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle malnutrition amongst under-fives in Afghanistan. [194521]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) assists the Afghan Government in tackling malnutrition amongst under-fives and provides support to the health sector by funding the Afghan Government's recurrent budget which pays the salaries of public servants, including doctors and health workers. Since 2002 we have contributed £240 million to the ARTF, including £55 million this financial year. We plan to contribute £60 million in 2008-09. This contribution has led to 82 per cent. of the population living in districts that have access to a Basic Package of Health Services. In addition DFID has just provided £3 million of emergency funding to a joint appeal from the Government of Afghanistan and the World Food Programme to address the current food shortages facing the most vulnerable families in Afghanistan.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which UK bilateral aid programmes are under way in *(a)* Mauritania, *(b)* Sierra Leone, *(c)* Tanzania, *(d)* Congo and *(e)* Gambia; and what the (i) duration and (ii) cost is of each. [194848]

Mr. Malik: Of the countries listed, the Department for International Development (DFID) only has bilateral programmes in Sierra Leone, Tanzania and the Gambia. Details of DFID's spending plans for 2007-08 were published in the Departmental Annual Report 2007 which can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2007/default.asp#contents

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193443]

Mr. Malik: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in his Department since August 2005. [185531]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No Wikipedia entries have been created or amended by special advisers, Ministers or communications officials of the Department. It is not possible to obtain IP address information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* country-co-ordinating mechanisms, *(b)* UN agencies and *(c)* civil society organisations his Department met to discuss either the development of proposals for or implementation of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant funding in 2007. [187433]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development holds regular meetings with country co-ordinating mechanisms, UN agencies and civil society organisations—both at headquarters and country levels—at which Global Fund grant funding is discussed.

We do not keep a record of the number of meetings we have held to discuss the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant funding.

HIV Infection: Overseas Aid

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps he is taking to secure G8 agreement to firm *(a)* plans and *(b)* timetables for the implementation of commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2007 Heiligendamm G8 summit; and if he will make a statement; [194302]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that universal access to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support services is a priority agenda item at *(a)* the forthcoming meeting of G8 Development Ministers and *(b)* the forthcoming G8 summit; and what estimate he has made of the level of funding (i) necessary to enable universal access to these services by 2010 and (ii) to be contributed towards this goal by G8 countries; [194303]

(3) what estimate he has made of the size of contribution to be made by the UK towards fulfilling the commitments made at the 2007 G8 summit to provide by 2010 *(a)* $1.5 billion towards universal access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services and *(b)* $1.8 billion towards universal access to paediatric HIV treatment; [194304]

(4) what estimate he has made of the funding still required to achieve the commitment at the 2007 G8 summit to enable distribution of between $6 billion and $8 billion by the Global Fund by 2010; and what assessment he has made of the likely sources for such funding. [194305]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is pushing G8 colleagues to ensure that fulfilling and implementing previous summit commitments is a priority both for the forthcoming meeting of G8 Development Ministers and at this year's Leaders' summit. The G8 in 2007 committed to scale up their efforts to achieve universal access, including to provide a projected $60 billion. The UK will be pressing G8 and other colleagues to contribute their share towards the goal of universal access.

A record $10 billion is estimated to have been spent globally tackling HIV and AIDS in 2007, which is a 10-fold increase on 2000 spending. UNAIDS have estimated that, to achieve universal access by 2010, global spending must accelerate to between $30 and $50 billion in 2010.

The UK is the second largest Government funder of AIDS-related assistance in the world, behind the US, and has pledged to spend £1.5 billion in tackling HIV and AIDS in developing countries between 2005 and 2008. The UK is committed to the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention services (including to prevent mother-to-child infection), treatment (including paediatric AIDS treatment), care and support. We are equally committed to paying our fair share and we expect partners to do the same.

In September 2007, the UK made an unprecedented commitment of up to £1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) up to 2015. The Board of the Global Fund expects that demand to the Global Fund could reach $6 billion per year by 2010, and could rise as high as $8 billion if demand from countries is greatly strengthened.

At the GFATM replenishment conference in September 2007, international donors pledged a total of around $6.3 billion for the three-year period to 2010. The Global Fund Secretariat estimates that a further $3.4 billion has been pledged since then, making a total of $9.7 billion. This is a significant increase in resources which will allow the Fund to support a substantial expansion of all ongoing programmes, and to launch new programmes. At the last funding round of the GFATM, all the programmes recommended for approval were fully funded.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what estimate he has made of the funding required *(a)* internationally and *(b)* from G8 countries to achieve the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2010; [194369]

(2) what assessment he has made of the resources required to meet the commitment made at the G8 summit in 2007 to enable distribution by the Global Fund of between $6 billion and $8 billion by 2010; and what assessment he has made of the likely sources for such funding; [194370]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that the achievement of the G8 commitment of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2010 remains a priority agenda item at this year's G8 summit; [194371]

(4) what steps he plans to take to encourage leaders at the 2008 G8 summit to bring forward plans and timetables for delivering commitments made on HIV and AIDS at the 2007 G8 summit, including *(a)* the $1.5 billion promised for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission services by 2010 and *(b)* the $1.8 billion promised for paediatric treatment by 2010. [194372]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given today to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Nigel Griffiths) (UIN numbers 194302, 194303, 194304 and 194305).

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has given to Kosovo in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [194226]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided Kosovo with £3.2 million of bilateral assistance in 2006-07.

The UK's imputed share of multilateral official development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) in 2005 was £21.9 million. Multilateral shares data for 2006 will be published in DFID's Annual Report in May 2008, reporting separate figures for Montenegro and Serbia (including Kosovo).

Overseas Aid: Cost Effectiveness

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to monitor value for money of international aid where funding is given directly to the Government of a developing country. [194783]

Mr. Thomas: Department for International Development (DFID) programme documents set out the objectives that we aim to achieve with our resources and a monitoring framework to enable us to track progress. We carry out reviews, normally with other donors, at least annually. As our aid money is mixed with the government's own revenue, we monitor the impact of our aid and the Government's own spending on growth and poverty reduction. Providing aid direct to Governments enables us to engage with the Government on the value for money of their overall budget. We also use our aid to strengthen Governments' ability to monitor the value for money achieved through their own programmes. The newly established Investment Committee will increase focus on value for money across DFID.

An independent evaluation of budget support which reported in 2006 assessed a total of US $4 billion provided as budget support from all donors in seven partner countries between 1994 and 2004. This found that, in the right circumstances, budget support has strengthened countries' public financial management systems, improved the efficiency of their public expenditure and increased the services provided by partner Governments, particularly in health and education.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to reply to the question tabled on 4 February 2008 by the hon. Member for Eddisbury on Wikipedia (185531). [195199]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The answer to the hon. Member's parliamentary question has been issued.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2564W, on Admiralty House, which commercial contractors were used to conduct the deep clean of the former residence of the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull (Mr. Prescott). [195239]

Meg Munn: The deep cleaning was carried out by the Cabinet Office's facilities management company, Ecovert FM.

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of levels of recruitment of children by armed groups in Afghanistan. [194518]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no formal assessment of the recruitment of children by armed groups in Afghanistan. According to the report of the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/62/609-S/2007/757), children have been used in suicide attacks and as human shields in Afghanistan. We condemn all attacks, but they are of particular concern when they are carried out by minors.

Colombia: Human Rights

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2143W, on Colombia, what the evidential basis is for his statement that illegal armed groups, including the FARC, are committing the majority of human rights abuses in Colombia. [194877]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave her on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2143W, and the 2007 report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) (UN General Assembly document A/HRC/4/48) cited in my answer.

The UNHCHR 2008 report (UN General Assembly document A/HRC/7/39) has now been published. It states:

> "A number of murders and death threats against trade unionists denounced to the office in Colombia in 2007 were attributed to members of the FARC-EP [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army], to new illegal armed groups, or to unidentified persons."

Cuba: Foreign Relations

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the recent statement by the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid on EU-Cuba relations; and if he will make it his policy to *(a)* support the cessation of EU diplomatic sanctions in respect of Cuba and *(b)* promote constructive engagement with Cuba. [194646]

Meg Munn: The joint communiqué issued following the Commissioner's visit is in the public domain, the full text is available at:

http://europa.cubaminrex.cu/Actualidad/2008/Marzo/Visita2.html

The UK is committed to the EU Common Position, which will be reviewed again in June 2008. The UK will continue to monitor events in Cuba and discuss the position with EU partners in the run-up to the review.

The UK continues to promote constructive engagement with Cuba through our Embassy in Havana, the Cuban Embassy in London and bilateral visits.

Cyprus

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to support reunification in Cyprus following the recent presidential election. [193083]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We encourage all parties to engage fully with the UN's efforts to achieve a comprehensive Cyprus settlement. A new opportunity now exists to make substantial progress, given the new sense of momentum. This opportunity must be seized. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has already met the new Cypriot Foreign Minister and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to President Christofias inviting him to the UK.

Defence: EU Action

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the legal personality accorded to the EU under the Treaty of Lisbon will enable the EU to agree defence treaties with third countries. [191181]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU already has the legal personality to conclude international agreements under Article 24 of the Treaty on the EU. For example, on 10 December 2002, the EU signed an agreement with the Republic of Iceland to enable its participation in the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Lisbon Treaty does not give the EU any new powers to conclude international agreements. Any decision to sign a treaty with defence or security implications would require a decision by the Council acting in unanimity.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193450]

Meg Munn: Other than in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the "Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim progress Report" on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187523]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office makes travel arrangements in the most efficient and cost effective way. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the code of management.

As the information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally it would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Diego Garcia: Detainees

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of detainees being held on US ships stationed outside the three mile territorial waters of Diego Garcia; and if he will set up a public inquiry into whether there was British involvement in the rendition and detention of prisoners around Diego Garcia or elsewhere. [194245]

Dr. Howells: We have received allegations about detainees being held on US ships stationed outside the three-mile territorial waters of Diego Garcia from a number of interested non-governmental organisations, including Amnesty International and Reprieve.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, outlined new information about two US rendition flights which passed through Diego Garcia. We are working closely with the US on the details and implications of this new information. As part of this work, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are compiling a list of all the flights where we have been alerted to concerns regarding rendition through the UK or our Overseas Territories. We will be seeking the US's specific assurance that none of those flights was used for rendition purposes. In advance of concluding this work, it would be inappropriate to speculate on whether a more formal inquiry is merited.

On 5 March my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, also spoke to Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, about claims that he has evidence the US had detained terrorism suspects on Diego Garcia between 2003 and 2004. The Minister encouraged Mr. Nowak to provide the Government with any evidence he may have regarding these allegations.

Durban II

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will propose the inclusion of *(a)* holocaust education and *(b)* anti-Semitism for discussion at the April 2008 Durban II preparatory committee to be held in Geneva. [194098]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W. The Government takes work on Holocaust education and remembrance very seriously and will seek opportunities with our EU partners to give Holocaust education and remembrance appropriate attention as negotiations continue.

The UK was among a small number of countries that worked hard to ensure that the issue of anti-Semitism was included in the 2001 Declaration and Programme for Action. We will seek to ensure that anti-Semitism receives due attention at the Durban Review Conference.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his Portuguese counterpart on the EU's position on Durban II before the 31 August 2007 preparatory committee meeting. [194100]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss the preparatory process for the Durban Review Conference with his Portuguese counterpart. UK Government officials in Geneva and Brussels continue to engage with other delegations on the preparatory process.

EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on the potential effects of the merging of the European Communities and the European Union in relation to Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy for *(a)* UK and *(b)* international law. [191182]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Lisbon Treaty replaces the 'European Community' (EC) with the 'European Union' (EU). This simplifies the existing position where there are two bodies—the EU and the EC—by providing that there will be just one body—the EU. As regards the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy, there will be no effect on UK or international law, as these matters are already carried out by the EU.

Kristallnacht

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht; and if he will make a statement. [194250]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations on commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. The Government are fully committed to Holocaust remembrance and preserving the legacy of the Holocaust for present and future generations. This means a commitment to both Holocaust Memorial Day, which is marked on 27 January of each year, and to other significant anniversaries, such as the anniversary of Kristallnacht (9-10 November). The Government support the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears), represented the Government at the UK's national Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration this year, which took place at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

The Government are also strongly committed to Holocaust remembrance and education in schools, and in February of this year pledged £4.65 million to the Holocaust Educational Trust to help fund two pupils from every sixth form in Britain to visit Auschwitz and participate in the activities of the International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

Iran

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the training by Iran of (i) Hamas and (ii) Islamic Jihad; and if he will make a statement. [194247]

Dr. Howells: The UK has serious concerns about Iran's role in the region, including its support to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. We have repeatedly raised these issues with the Government of Iran at a senior level and will continue to do so. Continuation of this type of behaviour will only lead to increased isolation for the Iranian regime and greater economic difficulty for the Iranian people.

We have not taken any action at the UN.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194327]

Meg Munn: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, nor its agencies, have made any payments to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's strategy for peace in Iraq as referred to by the former Prime Minister on 14 April 2003. [194408]

Dr. Howells: As the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Tony Blair, said in his statement of 14 April 2003, *Official Report*, columns 615-17, the Government's objective has always been to ensure that Iraq is run by Iraqis for all Iraqis. We have made progress towards this. In January 2005 Iraq held its first ever fully democratic elections, and in December 2005 just over 12 million people (76 per cent. of the electorate) voted in elections that put in place a fully representative Iraqi Parliament and permanent sovereign national Government.

While the security situation in Iraq remains challenging, the transfer of security responsibility for nine provinces to the Iraqi authorities, including all four provinces in southern Iraq which were under British control, demonstrates the significant progress made in building the capability of the Iraqi security forces and the improving conditions on the ground.

We do not underestimate the challenges ahead. Political reconciliation is needed if the recent improvements in security are to be sustainable and it is vital that Iraq fully realises its economic potential for the benefit all Iraqis. That is why we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations and will continue to support the people and Government of Iraq as they forge a future based on reconciliation, democracy, prosperity and security.

Pakistan: Entry Clearances

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visas were issued in Pakistan to prospective visitors in all temporary categories between April 2006 and March 2007. [194092]

Dr. Howells: The number of visas issued in temporary (non-settlement) categories in Pakistan between April 2006 and March 2007 is provided in the following table.

Visa category	*Applications received*	*Issued*	*Refused*
European economic area family permits	517	424	61
Family visit	89,125	55,914	31,668
Working holidaymaker	1	—	—
Other visitor	66,982	42,201	24,361
Student	28,228	11,490	15,902
Transit	1,361	954	316
Work permit	1,888	1,699	415
Other Non-settlement	12,208	9,062	2,776
Total	200,310	121,744	75,499

Notes:

1. Please note that this data is unpublished and should be strictly treated as provisional.

2. Please note that decisions on some of the applications received were made after March 2007, and some of the applications issued/refused were received before April 2006. The working holidaymaker application was withdrawn.

Source:

UKVisas central reference system. Date: 13 March 2008

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many male foreign nationals from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Bangladesh applied for a marriage visa with the sponsorship of a British woman who was under the age of 21 years in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [195130]

(2) how many marriage visa applications by male foreign nationals from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Bangladesh with the sponsorship of a British woman under the age of 21 years were successful in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [195131]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of men from Pakistan or Bangladesh who have applied for *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four or more marriage visas each sponsored by a different British woman; and if he will make a statement. [195233]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of British women who have applied as sponsors for marriage visas for the same man from Pakistan or Bangladesh *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* thrice and *(d)* four or more times; and if he will make a statement. [195235]

(5) how many British women applied as sponsors for marriage visas for *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more men from Pakistan or Bangladesh in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [195236]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not record such data. Information could only be obtained by examining individual visa application forms and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Saudi Arabia. [194679]

Dr. Howells: I can inform the hon. Member that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intends to visit Saudi Arabia in the next few months. I visited the Kingdom on 23-24 February 2007.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the psychological pressure being applied by the Equatorial Guinea authorities to Simon Mann. [194459]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Mr. Mann's welfare remains our primary concern. We will continue to raise, with the Equatorial Guinea Government, the issue of maintaining regular consular access, and any concerns we have over the conditions of Mr. Mann's detention. Our Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea (resident in Abuja) raised Mr. Mann's welfare when he met the President of Equatorial Guinea on 6 March.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations that Arab and Janjaweed militias in Darfur are being armed by the Government of Sudan. [194968]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* We are aware of continuing reports of the Government of Sudan providing support to armed groups operating in Darfur and Chad, as well as of Chadian support to rebel groups fighting in Darfur. We have made clear to Sudan that support to armed groups is unacceptable and must stop, and the dangerous consequences of further military activity in West Darfur in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 274, in the House that the international community will take action against any party that does not commit to a ceasefire and engage in the political process, including through pressing for further targeted sanctions.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy that representatives of the Government attend a peace conference and signing of a peace deal between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army if invited. [194604]

Meg Munn: The details of a signing ceremony for the Final Peace Agreement between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army have not yet been disclosed. The Government intend to be represented at any ceremony, subject to being invited.

World War II: Genocide

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2571W, on World War II: genocide, if he will place in the Library copies of statements condemning President Ahmadinejad's statements questioning the Holocaust; and if he will make a statement. [194248]

Dr. Howells: I will arrange for copies of statements condemning Iranian questioning of the Holocaust and anti-Israeli comments to be placed in the Library of the House. Such statements are abhorrent and we will continue to condemn them.

JUSTICE

Bail Hostels: Bodmin

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consultation his Department plans to *(a)* undertake or *(b)* commission in relation to the future use of properties in Bodmin by the Bail Accommodation and Support Service; [194685]

(2) what consultations took place with *(a)* local residents and *(b)* North Cornwall district council on establishing a facility for use by the Bail Accommodation and Support Service at 9 Cherry Tree Close, Bodmin. [194686]

Mr. Hanson: There are no current plans for a property in Bodmin for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. Any future planning for properties in Cornwall will be determined by the South West Regional Offender Manager relative to need based on data on prisoner origins. ClearSprings will consult the Devon and Cornwall constabulary, the appropriate local authority and Devon and Cornwall probation on any future proposal to bring a property in Cornwall within the scheme.

There is no requirement for ClearSprings to consult local residents about the provision of properties in their locale to people who are defendants on bail or offenders released on home detention curfew. Consultation with the North Cornwall district council about the property took place in February 2008.

Cemeteries

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W, on cemeteries, what progress has been made on proposals to allow local authorities to re-use graves in their cemeteries. [194736]

Bridget Prentice: Work on the practical details of how the scheme would operate is progressing well. Members of the Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group have been helping us in developing these proposals. We expect to make an announcement about how the initiative will be taken forward, including a public consultation exercise, in the near future.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192383]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 8W.

As has been the practice under successive Administrations and in accordance with the ministerial code my car is provided by the Metropolitan Police. The make and model is therefore a matter for them.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and its predecessor and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194985]

Maria Eagle: The ex-DCA centralised system holds the following information:

Year	*Settled Claims*
Sex Discrimination	
January to December 2002	0
January to December 2003	0
January to December 2004	0
January to December 2005	0
January to December 2006	4
January to December 2007	0
Race Discrimination	
January to December 2002	1
January to December 2003	0
January to December 2004	1
January to December 2005	0
January to December 2006	1
January to December 2007	0

Any discrimination claims brought on the grounds of sexual orientation are included in the category of sexual discrimination.

Information on whether the settlements were reached in or out of court is not held centrally. To obtain it would be at disproportionate cost.

For NOMS and OCJR, the information is not held centrally in the format or time period requested. Since the database was created in January 2005, there have been no recorded cases in the categories requested.

The Prison Service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residents of Lancashire were convicted of drug dealing in each of the last five years. [194716]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants found guilty for supply, and the possession with intent to supply drugs in the Lancashire police force area are in the following table. Information available to my Department cannot separate residents of Lancashire from other defendants found guilty in the Lancashire police force area.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for supply and the possession with intent to supply drugs in Lancashire police force area, 2002 to 2006[1,2]

Offence description	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug	174	222	156	151	153

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for supply and the possession with intent to supply drugs in Lancashire police force area, 2002 to 2006[1,2]

Offence description	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply	95	119	135	142	165

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Illegal Broadcasting: Video Recordings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 18 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2091W, on illegal broadcasting: video recordings, how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were in 2006 for offences of the supply of video works to individuals who were under the age of the designated classification. [195009]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of prosecutions and convictions under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales for 2006 can be found in the following table.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Offence description					
	Supplying video recording of unclassified work	*Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply*	*Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification*	*Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops*	*Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.*	*Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification*
Proceeded against	15	63	16	9	1	—
Found guilty	12	53	8	8	—	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Some of the statistics relate to illegal sales but it is not possible to tell whether these were necessarily sales to children.

[4] Includes the following statutes and offence description:
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 9 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Supplying video recording of unclassified work.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 10 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 11 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(4).
Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(5).
Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops.
Video Recording Act 1984 Sec 13.
Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 14 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(6).
Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification.
Our reference: PQ 195009 (Table)

[5] Nil

Source:
Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Juries: Mental Health

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the public consultation on the mental health criteria for jury duty, referred to in the report of the Social Exclusion Unit in June 2004, will be concluded. [194655]

Maria Eagle: Work is continuing on the drafting of a consultation paper on mental health and jury service and we expect to be in a position to publish the paper within the next few months. Under Cabinet Office guidelines three months should be allowed for public consultation; a summary of the views received and any decisions taken as a result of the consultation should be published within a further three months.

Magistrates Courts: Buxton

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the adequacy of facilities for *(a)* disabled access, *(b)* security and *(c)* staff accommodation at Buxton magistrates court; and if he will take any necessary action to make improvements. [194675]

Maria Eagle: HMCS has assessed the requirements for DDA works at Buxton magistrates court and plans to make improvements next financial year. A full security inspection has also been programmed. No additional works have been sought or are planned to the staff accommodation.

Tribunals: Learning Disabilities

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has issued on the *(a)* extent and *(b)* examples of reasonable adjustments expected by employment tribunals under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 in order to facilitate fair hearings for people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [193973]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service does not provide specific guidance on the provision of reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities attending a tribunal hearing. The Tribunals Service considers any request for a reasonable adjustment on a case by case basis as the specific requirements for each person will be different. However I shall raise this with/ask the Head of the Tribunals Service to consider issuing guidance.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

France (Channel)-England Operational Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation provides the Joint Technical Secretariat for the France (Channel)-England Operational Programme; and where the secretariat is located. [193829]

John Healey: The Joint Technical Secretariat for the France (Channel)-England Operational Programme is employed by the programme and is located in Rouen.

France (Channel)-England Programme Managing Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government office for the south-east attended the launch event of the France (Channel)-England Programme Managing Authority in Rouen on 24 January 2008. [193809]

John Healey: The launch event of the France (Channel)-England Programme on the 24 January 2008 was attended by one official from Communities and Local Government and, two officials from the Government office south-east.

Cemeteries: Monuments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Local Government Ombudsman has received in the last 36 months in relation to the removal of headstones from cemeteries by local authorities. [193813]

John Healey: In the last 36 months, the Local Government Ombudsman has received 142 complaints relating to cemeteries and crematoria. Data on the specific nature of the complaints falling within this category are not collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Coastal Areas: Migration

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what modelling her Department has undertaken on migration patterns affecting coastal towns; and what account has been taken of that modelling in formulating Government policy in relation to those towns. [180650]

Hazel Blears: My Department produces household projections across all local authorities, including coastal areas. These are based on population projections published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at a sub-national level that include estimates of migration. The ONS is undertaking a programme of work to improve population and migration statistics, including projections. In formulating strategies and plans, all places, including coastal towns, will need to assess demographic trends in their area. A cross-departmental working group on coastal towns has been established to consider the wider evidence base and policy issues affecting these towns.

Community Relations: Bingo

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the contribution made by bingo clubs to *(a)* sustainable communities and *(b)* social cohesion and inclusion. [191568]

Mr. Dhanda: No such assessment has been made by my Department. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column. 2685W, by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe).

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on local authority waiting lists for social housing in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government office region in (i) 1996 and (ii) 2007. [194291]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is given in the table. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997 to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at the following web address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.

Copies of this table have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Households on local authorities' waiting lists for social housing, by Government office region: England 1996, 2007

Government office region	Number of households[1] 1996	2007
North East	82,220	90,570
North West	144,550	212,600
Yorkshire and the Humber	164,710	270,070
East Midlands	113,190	134,420
West Midlands	96,660	121,050
East of England	90,190	146,250
London	178,660	333,860
South East	107,110	208,420
South West	84,890	157,180
England	1,062,180	1,674,420

[1] As reported by local authorities. Excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

2007 data—Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA). 1996 data—Housing Investment programme.

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

Council Tax

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs of collecting council tax in 2007. [193967]

John Healey: Net current expenditure on collection of council tax in England in 2006-07 was published in "Annex A9 of Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing: England 2006-07 Final Outturn" on 21 November 2007.

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/natstats.htm#rev

Council Tax: Local Government Finance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was received by local authorities in council tax revenue in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007. [194029]

John Healey: Details of the council tax collected in England from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are shown in the following table The figures are shown in £ million and are the cash amount collected within the year, irrespective of the year to which the money relates. The figures therefore include both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years but exclude amounts funded by council tax benefit.

	£ million
2002-03	14,511
2003-04	16,392
2004-05	17,508
2005-06	18,419
2006-07	19,315

Details of the income from council tax relating to each year taken into account by local authorities when setting their budgets are published in table 2.la of "Local Government Financial Statistics England No17 2007".

Council Tax: Oxfordshire

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tax valuations appeals there have been in Oxfordshire in the last three years, broken down by billing authority; and how many resulted in a lower banding being awarded. [194825]

John Healey: The numbers of council tax valuation appeals received and decided in the last three years were as follows:

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08 to 13 March 2008*	
	Council tax valuation (CTV) appeals received	*CTV appeals decided by tribunals*	*CTV appeals received*	*CTV appeals decided by tribunals*	*CTV appeals received*	*CTV appeals decided by tribunals*
Cherwell DC	105	11	98	25	122	13
Oxford CC	144	29	90	13	171	13
South Oxfordshire DC	128	30	104	17	114	9
Vale of White Horse DC	98	12	123	21	143	7
West Oxfordshire DC	132	31	166	19	104	15
Total	607	113	581	95	654	57

Information about the numbers resulting in a lower banding being awarded could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which billing authorities had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest Band D council tax, including all precepts, in England in 2007-08. [194022]

John Healey: Details of the level of Band D council tax in England in 2007-08 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Departmental Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the executive summary only of the Trees in Towns II report was published on her Department's website. [193975]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: The full report of the Trees in Towns II research is 646 pages long and is available as a priced publication from Communities and Local Government Publications. It has been produced as a CD and includes a database of the tree survey data and an interactive mapping tool enabling detailed analysis of the data. The length and complexity of the report together with the associated database and software made publication on the Department's website inappropriate. Hard copies of the executive summary, which included the CD containing the full report, were placed in the Libraries of the House.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which authority will consider planning applications for new eco-town developments. [193781]

Caroline Flint: We would expect all applications for eco-towns to be considered as a normal planning application by the appropriate local planning authority unless called in by the Secretary of State.

The Housing and Regeneration Bill currently being debated by this House, includes provision which gives the Secretary of State the power to designate an area and confer local planning authority functions on the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to that area. Such functions may include the determination of planning applications. There are currently no plans to use the designation powers for the delivery of eco-towns.

Eco-Towns: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new dwellings constructed in eco-towns will be considered as windfall sites for the purposes of meeting regional spatial strategy targets. [193815]

Caroline Flint: Depending on progress towards future housing targets in regional and local plans, part of the eco-town housing may count towards the existing or emerging housing number. We will provide more details on this when we publish the short list of successful proposals.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property attributes and data her Department collects from local authorities on the number of vacant domestic dwellings derived from council tax data; whether such data is broken down at ward level; what the mechanism for transferring the data is; and what the most recent period is for which such data is held. [193808]

John Healey: The annual survey of empty homes collects data on council tax discount and exemption codes which can be used to produce statistics indicative of the incidence of empty or second homes. No other attribute data are collected. The data are currently collected at property level so they can be aggregated to ward boundaries. The data are uploaded by local authorities through a secure departmental web-based data collection system. The latest data held are for April 2007.

Empty Property: Rates and Rating

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations *(a)* within and *(b)* outside Government she consulted before proposing amendments to the rules governing empty property rates. [193757]

John Healey: The decision to reform empty property rates followed the recommendations of the independent Barker Review into Land-Use Planning and the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government. A list of organisations and individuals who made representations to the reviews can be found in their reports.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with regional development agencies on amendments to the rules governing empty property rates. [193758]

John Healey: The decision to reform empty property rates followed the recommendations of the independent Barker Review into Land-Use Planning and the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government to which the regional development agencies made submissions.

Fire Services: East of England

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she received a copy of the Eastern Counties Fire and Rescue Services Acetylene Incident Report concerning Incident 20350 on the A12 at Marks Tey on 5 October 2007; what assessment she has made of its conclusions and recommendation; and if she will make a statement. [194330]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not received a report of the above acetylene incident from Essex Fire and Rescue Service.

We have however received a 'Fire and Rescue Service and Gas Industry Feedback form for Cylinder Incidents' with respect to this incident.

This feedback arrangement is part of the national 'Fires of Special Interest' reporting system and it is designed to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the 'Competent Persons' scheme. This is a scheme that offers expert industry advice to Fire and Rescue Services on cylinders involved in fires. The British Compressed Gas Association (BCGA) provides an Industry Support System to the Fire and Rescue Service (F and RS) and aims to assist the Incident Commander to effectively resolve the incident.

The comments made on the feedback form for this incident will be analysed and acted upon as appropriate following the quarterly meeting between CLG officials and BCGA representatives on 28 March.

Government Office for London: ICT

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* IT and *(b)* telephony costs were for the Government Office for London in 2007-08. [195122]

Mr. Dhanda: IT is provided centrally for all Government Offices. The costs for London are expected to be approximately £893,000 for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 based on their headcount against the overall central IT budget. This excludes telephony.

The costs for telephony for Government Office for London are expected to be £195,000 for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Telephony was provided under a legacy contract which has now ceased. A new contract for telephony services covering all the Government Offices will provide significant savings both for Government Office for London and for the Government Office estate as a whole in 2008-09.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W, on home information packs (HIPs), for what reason the status of approved training provider for HIP and energy performance certificate inspectors was removed from Morgan Whittaker. [191634]

Caroline Flint: Morgan Whittaker's approved assessment centre status was removed by the awarding bodies as a result of a contractual matter between those parties involved.

Home Information Packs: Housing Market

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the impact of home information packs on the housing market. [194255]

Caroline Flint: A full assessment of the impact of home information packs (HIPs) on the housing market was carried out before the decision to roll out HIPs across the market on 14 December 2007. This assessment supported earlier modelling that found no evidence of any impact on transactions or prices. In addition, we have continued to monitor the operation of HIPs following the roll out across the market. All evidence points to a smooth introduction of HIPs.

Homelessness

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken in response to allegations of gate-keeping by local authority homelessness units where those approaching for assistance are prevented from making an official homelessness application. [194812]

Mr. Iain Wright: We continue to emphasise to local authorities that their efforts to prevent homelessness must work alongside their obligations under homelessness legislation. In particular, the revised Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, published in July 2006, makes clear that when considering applications for assistance, authorities must not avoid their obligations under the legislation. This was emphasised by my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) in her letter of 12 April 2006.

We undertake regular analysis of the homelessness statistics reported quarterly by individual housing authorities. If these reveal a notable reduction in acceptances in any area, a specialist adviser from the Housing Strategy and Support Directorate will contact the authority to discuss how this has been achieved. This helps to identify good practice in homelessness prevention which can be shared with other authorities, as well as safeguarding against any risk of "gate-keeping".

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Homes and Communities Agency will have to develop areas where such development is not supported by the local authority. [193836]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency will, like any other developer, be required to secure planning permission for any proposed development. The agency will not be able to circumvent the planning system in any way, and will have no powers to allow it to develop areas against the wishes of the local authority.

If a local authority is against a particular kind of development within its area this should be clear from the local development framework. Such an omission would afford the local planning authority the opportunity to dismiss any planning application that was brought forward that proposed such a development on the grounds that it did not meet with the agreed and adopted plans for the area.

Where an application for development is not in accordance with the development plan a local planning authority will consider whether there are any material considerations which justify approving the application in any event, for example it could include where the proposed development would bring wider benefits to the local area.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Homes and Communities Agency will *(a)* be formally constituted and *(b)* commence its work. [194994]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency can only be formally constituted after the Housing and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent.

Housing: Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the assumption in the Budget of net migration of 190,000 per year, what estimate she has made of the effects of net migration on housing demand; how many additional households will be generated a year on the basis of this assumption; and what the Government's previous estimate was of the number of additional households generated by net migration. [195284]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 18 March 2008]*: The assumption of 190,000 per year net migration into the UK is the principal long term assumption in the Office for National Statistics' 2006-based population projections. The equivalent assumption for net migration into England is 171,500 per year. An assessment of the impact on household growth of this migration assumption will be made as part of updated household projections that are planned later this year, following publication by the Office for National Statistics of the 2006-based sub-national population projections.

The 2004-based household projections, for England, showed that one third of the projected household growth of 223,000 per year was attributable to net migration into England. The underlying 2004-based population projection assumed 130,000 per year net migration into England compared with 171,500 per year in the 2006-based national population projection.

Housing: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government funding has been allocated to Morecambe and Lunesdale for housing regeneration since 1997. [192551]

Caroline Flint: Allocations to Lancaster city council, which includes Morecambe in its area, of capital funding for housing purposes over the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 exceeds £40 million. This includes the major repairs allowance first introduced in 2001-02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the decent homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010.

In addition, just over £20 million has been made available to Lancaster through funding from the Housing Corporation.

Housing: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance was given to Shrewsbury borough council to help provide affordable housing in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [194684]

Mr. Iain Wright: In March 2006 the Government announced investment of nearly £4 billion from 2006-08 to deliver 84,000 new affordable homes in the Housing Corporation's national affordable housing programme (NAHP).

Under the NAHP Shrewsbury borough council was allocated:

2005-06: £347,000;

2006-07: £3 million; and

2007-08: £3 million.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the yearly target is for the number of new residential dwellings to be built in the Thames Gateway area; and what the geographical scope is of the target. [194259]

Caroline Flint: The Government's target is for a net increase of 160,000 new dwellings to be provided throughout the entire Thames Gateway over the period from April 2001 to March 2016 inclusive. The rate of delivery is not expected to be consistent over that period and a substantial acceleration in the rate of housebuilding is expected in the latter part of the period as a number of very large sites—which necessarily involve long lead times—come on stream. The target has not been broken down into annual increments.

The current boundary of the Thames Gateway—and the boundary to which the housing target applies—is as illustrated in the Government's 2003 publication: "The Sustainable Communities Plan", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Sustainable Development

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Infrastructure Planning Commission will use on sustainability in its assessment of development proposals. [191871]

John Healey: The Infrastructure Planning Commission will take decisions on applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure within the framework provided by national policy statements, which will integrate economic, social and environment objectives with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

INTERACT Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution her Department makes to the delivery of the European Union's INTERACT programme. [193830]

John Healey: My Department has been involved in the development of the INTERACT programmes through leading the UK representation on working groups overseeing its preparation and agreeing the priorities and work programme.

INTERREG Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the consultation documents produced by her Department as part of the Interreg IVA 2 Seas Operational Programme. [193812]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the consultation letter and draft operational programme on which it invited comments in the Library of the House.

Licensed Premises: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the planning regime affecting premises licensed to sell alcohol since May 1997. [194816]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have made significant changes to the planning system since May 1997. Of particular relevance to premises licensed to sell alcohol are the changes which the Government have made to the Use Classes Order and the Government's planning policy for town centre development.

Changes to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 came into force on 21 April 2005, as set out in Circular 03/2005. This amended Order disaggregated the former A3: Food and Drink use Class into three separate use classes to give local planning authorities more influence over the number, size, range and distribution of premises licensed to sell alcohol in their areas. The new A4: "Drinking Establishments" class caters specifically for pubs and bars i.e. places where the primary purpose is the sale and consumption of alcoholic drink on the premises.

The Government's key planning policy, which applies to premises licensed to sell alcohol, is Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6), published in 2005, which replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 6 (DoE, 1996). PPS6 applies to a broad range of uses, including bars, pubs, night-clubs and other leisure uses. It contains specific policy on how to manage evening and night-time economy uses. It should be taken into account by planning authorities in the preparation of local planning policies and in the consideration of planning applications.

PPS6 should be read alongside other relevant statements of national planning policy which have been published since 1997, in particular "Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development", which is the Government's overarching planning policy and which includes policy on design and crime prevention, and "Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport" which includes guidance on how local planning authorities should manage travel demand.

Lichfield District Council: Council Tax

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio of central Government funding council tax revenue for Lichfield district council was in each of the last eight years. [193728]

John Healey: The ratios between central Government funding and council tax requirement for Lichfield district council are shown in the following table.

	Central Government funding (£000)	*Council tax requirement (£000)*	*Ratio*
1999-2000	4,562	3,672	1.24
2000-01	5,003	3,821	1.31
2001-02	5,086	4,129	1.23
2002-03	5,205	4,428	1.18
2003-04	6,384	4,770	1.34
2004-05	5,651	5,128	1.10
2005-06	6,420	5,413	1.19
2006-07	7,566	5,817	1.30

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Authorities: Contract Compliance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its predecessors have issued to local authorities on *(a)* misfeasance, *(b)* nonfeasance and *(c)* malfeasance in the last five years. [193996]

John Healey: No guidance has been issued on these matters in the last five years.

Local Government Finance: Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether payments will be made to local authorities over each of the next three years in relation to the costs of the landfill tax. [193780]

John Healey: The Government worked closely with local authorities to identify the cost pressures on local authorities resulting from their waste management responsibilities over the next three financial years, including the pressure created by the increase in the landfill tax escalator announced in Budget 2007, in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. These were taken into account in the Formula Grant settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11. This funding is not hypothecated to a particular service or in respect to a particular cost.

Local Government Finance: Newcastle-under-Lyme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what level within her Department the misallocation of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive funds to Newcastle-under-Lyme was authorised. [194592]

John Healey: Payments under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI) are made by means of a grant determination under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Each grant determination is made by a Minister and signed on his or her behalf by a senior civil servant.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in local government employee wages was in each year since 1996-97; and what the cost of the local government wage bill was in each of those years. [193782]

John Healey: Information on local government wages is not held centrally. Information on local government pay is published in "Local Government Finance Statistics", at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department has in relation to the national pay review of local authority officers. [194821]

John Healey: National pay agreements are negotiated in the National Joint Council between trade unions and the local government employers. I am not aware of any national pay review of local authority officers.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation: Public Appointments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department has played in the appointment of individuals to the planning committee of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. [193681]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee currently consists of nine members. Seven of these members are members of the Corporation Board. They were appointed to the Planning Committee by the chairman of the Corporation.

Two members of the Planning Committee are co-opted and are not members of the Corporation Board. They were also appointed by the chairman of the board with the consent of the Secretary of State, following advertising the positions, shortlisting and interviews. The Department approved the design of the appointment process. The process itself, including the shortlisting and interviews, was run by the Corporation.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role *(a)* her Department or its predecessor, *(b)* her Department's agencies and *(c)* the Government Office for London played in the appointment of Mr. Alan Clark to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. [193784]

Caroline Flint: Mr. Alan Clark was appointed to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Board by the chairman of the Corporation following an appointment process involving advertising the position, short listing and interview. The Secretary of State gave her consent to the appointment following this process. The process was approved by the Department and run by the Corporation itself.

Non-domestic Rates: Churches

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the rateable value of all churches and other places of worship in England which are exempt from business rates. [194394]

John Healey: Valuation officers do not value properties that are exempt from rates.

Non-Domestic Rates: Crossrail

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many years the supplementary business rate for Crossrail on London businesses will last. [194343]

John Healey: "Business rate supplements: a White Paper" makes clear that it will be for individual authorities, including the GLA, to decide how long their business rate supplements would last. The proposed duration will be one of the matters the GLA will need to cover in its plans which will be the basis for statutory consultation. The Mayor wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport setting out his thinking and I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-4WS.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public authorities will bear the liability of any cost over-runs on the Crossrail scheme; and what liability London firms paying the supplementary business rate will have. [194345]

John Healey: General questions on funding of Crossrail are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, and I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-34WS, and the answer given by her to the hon. Member for Woking (Mr. Malins) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1294W.

The liability of any businesses paying a business rate supplement, including businesses in London paying a supplement as part of the funding package for Crossrail, would not be able to exceed the national upper limit of 2p per pound of rateable value specified in "Business rate supplements: a White Paper". The GLA and any other authority that wishes to levy a supplement, would, as the White Paper sets out, be required to set out the way in which it would deal with differences between planned and outrun expenditure as part of its statutory consultation on a proposed supplement.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for the publication of valuation information arising from the revaluation undertaken for non-domestic rates calculation in 2010. [193961]

John Healey: Draft 2010 rateable values will be published in the autumn of 2009, with final valuations being published on 1 April 2010.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether private companies were consulted on Ordnance Survey's draft revised Public Task before it was approved; [193729]

(2) whether the *(a)* GI Panel and *(b)* Association for Geographic Information were consulted on Ordnance Survey's draft revised Public Task before it was approved.[1] [193730]

Mr. Iain Wright: In April 2007, Ministers from the Department asked Ordnance Survey and the Shareholder Executive to work together to prepare a more precise articulation of Ordnance Survey's Public Task, as set out in the Ordnance Survey Framework Document 2004. This work was undertaken between April and June 2007 in preparation for the publication of a revised Framework Document for Ordnance Survey.

As has been the case with the preparation of previous versions of the Ordnance Survey Framework Document, there were no external consultations on the Public Task, which fundamentally articulates that defined in such successive Ordnance Survey Framework Document since 1990, but in a more precise and comprehensive way.

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for independent assessment of national policy statements on planning. [194021]

John Healey: The Government are committed to ensuring that national policy statements are subject to public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny before they are designated. It is for Parliament to determine the nature of the scrutiny process. However, we have encouraged the House to set up arrangements which draw on the expertise of the four relevant departmental Select Committees for the purpose.

I am discussing this issue with the Leader of the House and the Chairs of the four Select Committees, with a view to developing recommendations which can be put to House in due course.

Planning Inspectorate

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the scope and powers of the Planning Inspectorate. [194805]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate was subject to an end to end review in 2003; the published report is available in the Library of the House. Since then, both the Barker and Eddington reviews have looked at the effectiveness of the planning system as a whole of which PINS forms an integral part. The Planning Bill currently progressing through Parliament draws on all of those earlier reviews in proposing enabling legislation to make the appeals system more proportionate, efficient and customer based.

Planning: EU Law

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether national policy statements under the provision of the Planning Bill will be required to be assessed under the *(a)* EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and *(b)* EU Habitats Directive; and if she will make a statement. [191872]

John Healey: All national policy statements will be subject to appraisal of the sustainability of the policies they contain. Some will also be required to be assessed under the regulations which transpose the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the EU Habitats Directive. The Government will carry out assessments in all cases where they are required by the regulations, as part of the appraisal of sustainability.

Public Lavatories: Closures

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many municipal public conveniences have *(a)* closed and *(b)* commenced charging for use since 1997. [194026]

John Healey: The provision and maintenance of toilets in public places is at the discretion of local authorities who have, under section 87 of the Public Health Act 1936, a power to provide public conveniences, but no duty to do so. For this reason, the information requested is not centrally held by Communities and Local Government.

Recreation Spaces

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of town green applications remained undecided after *(a)* two and *(b)* five years on the latest date for which figures are available. [194854]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

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[1] *[Official Report, 26 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 2MC.]*

This information is not held centrally. However, a survey of commons registration authorities in England was undertaken in September 2007. Allowing for authorities which did not respond, we estimate that 14 applications made in 2003 and 79 applications made in 2006 had not been determined by the date of the survey.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken for processing a town green application was in the latest period for which figures are available. [194855]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally. However, according to the findings of a survey of commons registration authorities in England, undertaken in September 2007, the average time for processing town and village green applications made under section 13(b) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 was 16 months.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage economic regeneration in coastal resorts. [194034]

John Healey: The Government's Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR) will help empower local authorities in coastal resorts and other areas to drive local prosperity, economic growth and regeneration. My Department will issue a consultation document on the SNR shortly. This will include a proposal for a new statutory duty on local authorities to carry out an economic assessment of their area, in consultation with local partners, and take account of their wider economic area. The assessment will also support the development of new integrated regional strategies.

The Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have a key role to play in helping coastal areas in their regions to achieve their full economic potential, as part of wider regional strategies to deliver sustainable growth. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) through its regional presence will also support the delivery of sustainable regeneration and growth in coastal areas.

My Department is supporting the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) in setting up an RDA-led Coastal Areas Network. This will play an important role in bringing together national, regional and local authority stakeholders to improve co-ordination and sharing best practice in delivering economic growth and regeneration in coastal towns. The first meeting of the Network is scheduled for May.

This Network complements a cross-government working group on coastal towns, led by my Department, which is promoting a co-ordinated approach to addressing issues affecting coastal towns, including economic regeneration.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage economic regeneration in coastal resorts. [194246]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today to question 194034.

Sustainable Development: Urban Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz) of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 53W, on sustainable development: urban areas, when the first eco-town will be completed. [194368]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 120W.

Temporary Accommodation: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were housed in temporary accommodation by Tamworth Borough Council in each year since 1997. [187759]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Tables summarising homelessness figures for each local authority for the past 10 years, including the total number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each year, have been placed in the House of Commons Library. An extract from the table is provided as follows and gives the number of households in temporary accommodation in Tamworth as at the end of each financial year, from 1997-08 to 2006-07:

Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation, March 1998 to March 2007

	Tamworth
1997-98	83
1998-99	88
1999-2000	92
2000-01	105
2001-02	94
2002-03	83
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	131
2005-06	[1]—
2006-07	63

[1] Denotes data not reported

The figures include those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, those for which inquiries into whether they are owed the duty are pending and those who were found to be intentionally homeless but are being accommodated for a reasonable period by the LA. It excludes households designated as "homeless at home", that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.

Data are also published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which includes a supplementary table showing the breakdown of key data, including temporary accommodation for each local authority. The supplementary tables are published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008 and contains data for the period October to

December 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee: Business Interests

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether members of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee are required to *(a)* submit declarations of interests to a monitoring officer and *(b)* make a declaration of their political activity on taking up the post. [193364]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee currently consists of nine members. Seven of those members are members of the corporation board, appointed to the board by the Secretary of State. They were appointed to the planning committee by the chairman of the corporation.

Two members of the planning committee are not members of the board. They were appointed by the chairman of the board with the consent of the Secretary of State, following an appointment process involving advertising the position, shortlisting and interviews.

All members of the planning committee (board and non board) have to complete a corporation declaration of interest form and keep this updated. At each planning committee meeting members have to declare any interests.

All members of the planning committee (board and non board) have to comply with the corporation's code of practice, which contains guidance on acceptable political activities. As part of the appointment process for non board members all applicants were required to complete a political activity questionnaire.

Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual remuneration is of *(a)* a member and *(b)* the chairman of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee. [193366]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee currently consists of nine members. Seven of those members are members of the corporation board, appointed to the board by the Secretary of State. They were appointed to the planning committee by the chairman of the corporation.

Two members of the committee are not members of the board. They were appointed by the chairman of the board with the consent of the Secretary of State, following an appointment process involving advertising the position, shortlisting and interviews.

Corporation board members are not paid any additional amount for being on the planning committee. This is included in their normal board remuneration fee.

Non board members are paid on a daily rate. It is estimated that they will receive £6,000 per annum related to planning committee activity.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's standard form, VO6403. [194815]

John Healey: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's form used to record information about a licensed property if inspected (VO6403) has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office: Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Valuation Office Agency document Dwellinghouse coding: An Illustrated Guide was *(a)* first published and *(b)* most recently updated. [194024]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the former Local Government Minister on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Village Halls: Finance

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she last discussed the funding of village halls with the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and for Culture, Media and Sport. [189348]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has held no such discussions.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many attempts to defraud the child benefit system through the use of false documents were made in each of the last five years; what steps have been taken to detect these; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of these measures; and if he will make a statement. [195097]

Jane Kennedy: Rigorous checks are carried out on all claims to child benefit prior to payment. The most recent estimate of the level of child benefit fraud indicates that it is around 0.2 per cent. of the payments made.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information is disclosed to other EU countries in order for them to verify claims for child benefit or its equivalent made by UK citizens in those countries. [195042]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 26 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 48W.

A copy of the E 400 series forms, which are used by member states to verify the composition of the family in the state and to gather information about entitlement to family benefits in the state of residence are published in the *Official Journal* (OJ) of the European Union (OJ ref.: L129 of 23.5.2005).

Children: Death

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children have died as a result of drug dependency on the part of their mothers in the last 12 months. [195442]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children have died as a result of drug dependency on the part of their mothers in the last 12 months. (195442)

This information is not available from death registration data.

Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on payments to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies funded via the public purse *(a)* directly from the Valuation Office Agency, *(b)* directly from HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* indirectly via CapGemini under the ASPIRE contract. [194771]

Jane Kennedy: For payments to between 2003-04 and 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 January 2007, *Official Report,* column 1328W by the then Minister for Local Government my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas). Subsequent payments have totalled £481,646 in the year 2006-07 and £40,217 (to end February 2007) in the year 2007-08. All figures exclude non-recoverable VAT.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 688W, on council tax: appeals, how many individual domestic properties in England had their council tax band reduced as a result of a council tax appeal made by them or by a property in the vicinity in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [194838]

Jane Kennedy: There are approximately 22.4 million homes in England. The numbers of valid proposals to alter council tax valuation lists in respect of these, received in the last three years (to October 2007, the latest figures available), which have resulted in a lower banding, are as follows:

	Valid proposals resulting in a lower banding
2005-06	9,756
2006-07	4,698
2007-08 (to October 2007)	249

Information about re-bandings following an appeal made by a property in the vicinity can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 5 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2497W, on council tax: parking, how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned the value significant codes of *(a)* VC, *(b)* VE, *(c)* VH, *(d)* VI, *(e)* VL, *(f)* VM, *(g)* VO, *(h)* VP, *(i)* VR and *(j)* VS. [194836]

Jane Kennedy: As at 3 March 2008 the relevant numbers were:

	Number
VC	9,150
VE	25,667
VH	2,945
VI	1,632
VL	1,436
VM	466
VO	19,969
VP	3,192
VR	12,239
VS	3,200

A comprehensive exercise to capture information about all value significant features of all domestic properties has not been undertaken and nor is one planned. These data should not be interpreted as definitive, nor is it correct to say that properties assigned these codes will automatically have their council tax banding adjusted upwards.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model for English council tax valuations makes of locality adjustment factors. [194763]

Jane Kennedy: Locality adjustment factors are not currently used for council tax valuations in England.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether additional noise and disturbance arising from a change in road traffic is a material change affecting a dwelling for the purposes of council tax valuations. [194824]

Jane Kennedy: Clarification of the law on this matter is currently being sought from the Court of Appeal.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194990]

Angela Eagle: No claims were brought by Treasury officials.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the fuel duty increase from 1st April 2008 on British hauliers, with particular reference to their ability to compete with other EU hauliers. [192915]

Angela Eagle: The Budget announced that the 2 pence per litre fuel duty rise scheduled for 1 April will be deferred until 1 October 2008, responding to short-term economic conditions while ensuring stability long term.

The Government set out their policy on fuel duty in Budget 2007, to raise duty rates at least in line with inflation based in order to reduce polluting emissions and fund public services. For this reason, the Budget announced that fuel duty will rise by 0.5 pence per litre above indexation on 1 April 2010.

In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process the Government consider a range of factors including relevant environmental, social and economic factors—including those relating to specific industry sectors—into consideration.

The Haulage Industry Task Group, including representatives of the haulage industry, considered the operating costs faced by UK and EU hauliers. It recognised that within cost differentials, the fuel tax differential is partially offset by lower labour taxes and other employer costs in the UK, and overall operating costs are similar to Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany.

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194878]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not provide services through call centres.

Households: Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency will have access to data from the integrated household survey. [194761]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans for the Valuation Office Agency to have access to or use of this data.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* timetable, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* budget is of the integrated household survey. [194762]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what are the (a) timetable, (b) purpose and (c) budget of the Integrated Household Survey. 194762

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is a new modular survey being introduced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to replace four of its existing household surveys. Implementation of the new survey began in January 2008 when new questionnaires replaced the Expenditure and Food Survey, the General Household Longitudinal Survey and the Omnibus Survey. From April 2008, a new housing module of the IHS commissioned by the Communities and Local Government department will be introduced. Full implementation of the survey is expected to be completed in 2009 by when a new survey module will have replaced the Labour Force Survey and a new sample design will be in place for all modules of the IHS.

Each IHS module has a common set of core questions along with topic-specific questions. Once the survey has been implemented in full, operational efficiencies will result from improved sample design and the ability to manage field interviewers' workload more flexibly. The survey will also allow a greater range of statistical analyses across the survey modules and improve the precision of some estimates. The IHS will also provide a high quality, adaptable and efficient survey mechanism for meeting the Government's future information needs.

It is estimated that expenditure on developing and implementing this survey will total £3.5 million, in addition to the on-going annual costs of running each of the component surveys.

Income Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1367W, on income tax, what proportion of those receiving an income tax self-assessment tax return overstated their tax liability in each year since 1997. [195907]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

International Assistance: Palestinians

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to financial institutions on the opening of accounts to fund humanitarian and other welfare support schemes for Palestinian people. [194930]

Angela Eagle: Any individual, charity or voluntary organisation opening a bank account in the United Kingdom must, in line with the requirements of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, satisfy the relevant financial institution as to their identity. Financial institutions are also required to maintain appropriate records and monitor accounts. The precise requirements will vary depending on the legal form and structure of the person opening the account.

Guidance from the Joint Money Laundering Steering Group provides advice on the identification and verification requirements that financial institutions must apply to charities and other similar groups. That guidance was updated in 2007, and was approved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is available at:

http://www.jmlsg.org.uk/bba/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=749

In addition groups wishing to constitute themselves as registered charities in England and Wales will have to satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission. There are separate arrangements in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Landfill Tax

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of the income he will receive from the landfill levy that will be allocated to environmental trusts and business resource efficiency and waste through tax foregone in the years *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [193103]

(2) what estimate he has made of the income that he will receive from the landfill levy in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and (c) 2010. [193107]

Angela Eagle: Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published in Table C6 of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/3/bud08_chapterc.pdf.

For 2007-08, landfill operators are able to receive a tax credit for contributions to environmental bodies under the Landfill Communities Fund worth up to 6.6 per cent. of their gross landfill tax liabilities. Budget 2008 announced that the percentage cap for 2008-09 will be 6.0 per cent. No announcement has yet been made about the applicable percentage for years beyond 2008-09.

The business resource efficiency and waste programme is not funded via tax foregone.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what form the consultation on the removal of the landfill tax contaminated land exemption in respect of waste from contaminated land disposed of to landfill on or after 1 April 2012 will take; and how long the consultation will last. [195076]

Angela Eagle: The Government undertook last year a 12-week consultation exercise on their plans to reform land remediation relief and to phase out the landfill tax exemption for waste from clearing contaminated land. The Government also informally sought feedback to their response to the consultation when it was published last December.

Following the Budget 2008 announcement the Government plan to consult this summer on the draft legislation for both of these reforms. Further details, including the length of this consultation exercise, will be published nearer the time.

Revenue and Customs: Whitehaven

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take account of the spare capacity at Whitehaven HM Revenue and Customs Office in distributing that department's workload. [194897]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has surplus office space in many areas, including Whitehaven, following the merger of two departments and the staff efficiency savings since April 2004. The current availability of additional office capacity is clearly an issue in considering future plans but the main drivers are future business needs and current staffing.

Stamp Duties: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims there have been for stamp duty tax relief for zero-carbon homes since 1 January 2008. [194764]

Angela Eagle: Of those transactions for which a stamp duty land tax certificate was issued between 1 January 2008 and 29 February 2008, three transactions claimed the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes. No data currently exist for March.

The tax relief is designed to help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

We expect the number of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. For example, in December 2007, the Government announced details of 200 new homes to be built to a zero-carbon standard in Hanham Hall, near Bristol. The media release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/611694

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Taxation: Pensions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions on proposals to tax 420,000 small pensions retrospectively for the tax year 2007-08; if he will place in the Library a copy of Treasury Counsel's opinion to HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [190846]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* Pensions are subject to income tax and, for private pensions, tax should be deducted at source under PAYE, where appropriate. The vast majority of private pensions are being taxed correctly but some pension providers have not deducted tax under PAYE from all pensions in payment. For the minority of pensions where tax has not previously been collected as it should have been, HMRC are advised that they are required to ensure the position is rectified from the current year (2007-08). HMRC have discussed with the Department for Work and Pensions the implications of correcting the tax position from 2007-08 for entitlement to Pension Credits and other income-related benefits. HMRC's legal advice from Treasury Counsel is considered to have legal professional privilege and therefore will not be disclosed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the total tax liability that would be incurred by pensioners under HM Revenue and Customs' proposals to tax 420,000 small pensions retrospectively for the year 2007-08, *(b)* the income profile of the individuals affected and *(c)* the average income of those affected; and if he will make a statement. [190847]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* There are no plans to impose tax retrospectively. The vast majority of private pensions are already being taxed correctly but some pension providers have not deducted tax under PAYE from all pensions in payment. HMRC are advised that they must ensure that from 2007-08 tax is collected in respect of pensions previously treated incorrectly. The total amount of tax due from these pensions for 2007-08 is estimated to be £135 million.

Until more information is available following the end of the tax year, it is not possible to accurately identify the income profile or average income of pensioners in receipt of these pensions.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what communications have been sent from *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs to pensions providers, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs to the individuals concerned and *(c)* from pension providers to the individuals concerned to inform them about the proposed retrospective tax liability that would be incurred by 420,000 small pensions for the tax year 2007-08; when they were sent; and if he will make a statement. [190848]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* A small minority of private pensions have for some years not been correctly taxed. HMRC has written to all pension providers to explain the necessity of producing full details of all pension payments for 2007-08 together with the tax deducted, if any, through the normal PAYE end-of-year procedures. This will enable those pensions which have previously been taxed incorrectly to be identified. Information is available to people on HMRC's website, but HMRC has not been able to contact people individually because they cannot yet be identified. Communications between pension providers and their pensioners are a matter for the companies.

Tolls

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office for National Statistics classifies *(a)* the London congestion charge, *(b)* workplace parking charges under the Transport Act 2000, *(c)* congestion charging or road pricing, *(d)* municipal parking charges for on-street parking and *(e)* municipal parking charges for off-street parking as taxation for statistical purposes. [194775]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question on whether the Office for National Statistics classifies a number of road and parking charges as taxation for statistical purposes (194775).

In general charges for using roads or car parks, whether for driving or parking, are classified as payments for the use of an asset. This is in accordance with international standards used to produce the National Accounts. A tax is defined in these standards as a 'compulsory and unrequited payment', the latter part of the phrase meaning where the payer does not directly receive anything in return.

One exception to this generality, which falls into your category 'municipal parking charges for on-street parking', is where an emissions-based charging policy is used. In this case the charges are classified as a tax.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultancy work Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies (CLT) is providing to the Valuation Office Agency further to CLT's contract with CapGemini in relation to council tax *(a)* valuations and *(b)* revaluations. [194773]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what office space is provided to representatives of Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to their work for the agency. [194774]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Valuation Office: Documents

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to introduce an electronic document and records management system. [192324]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has yet to decide if it will introduce an electronic document and records management system.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the user guides for the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* server version of OASIS and *(b)* automated valuation model software. [194772]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 January 2006, *Official Report,* column 250W to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 508W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, what the budget for the development of the geographic information system is. [194786]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the previous answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 887W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 508W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, whether the Geographic Information System will be integrated into the Automated Valuation Model. [194787]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's business requirement is that the proposed Geographic Information System will integrate with its existing property-related applications, including the automated valuation model technology.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 508W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, whether the geographic information system will be used to assist the Valuation Office Agency's work on council tax valuations. [194788]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's (VGA's) proposed Geographic Information System (GIS) will better manage, display and analyse the VOA's property-related information in geo-spatial form. This will allow the Agency to undertake a number of its functions, including those statutory duties relating to council tax, in a more efficient and effective way.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, what the timetable is for the Valuation Office Agency to come to its operational decision on whether to extend the contract. [194508]

Jane Kennedy: No firm timetable has been set.

VAT: Administration

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time for processing new value added tax registrations was in each of the last 12 months. [195645]

Jane Kennedy: The average processing times for VAT registration applications for the last 12 months is as follows:

Period	*Average time taken (in days)*
2007	
March	29
April	33
May	38
June	41
July	39
August	42
September	39
October	28
November	18
December	17
2008	
January	16
February	12

The significant upturn in performance in recent months reflects the improvement measures introduced by HM Revenue and Customs to tackle the difficulties that there have been with registering new businesses for VAT.

VAT: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the identity cards scheme to the tackling of missing trader intra-community fraud. [195096]

Jane Kennedy: The National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan 2008 puts emphasis on opportunities for individuals to assert and protect their identities. The scheme was published on 6 March 2008 and seeks views on how to deliver benefits to card holders.

A copy of the delivery plan can be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/national-identity-scheme-delivery-2008.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken was to respond to public enquiries on tax credits by HM Revenue and Customs offices in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [195246]

Jane Kennedy: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 368-69W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

It is not possible to provide information about the average time taken to respond to tax credits inquiries made to all HM Revenue and Customs offices.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the time period is in which individuals may appeal against a decision made by tax credit offices; and if he will make a statement; [195243]

(2) what arrangements are in place to inform individuals of their right to appeal decisions made by tax credit offices; [195244]

(3) how many appeals were made in each of the last 10 years against decisions made by tax credit offices; and if he will make a statement. [195245]

Jane Kennedy: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 371-72W.

Information concerning appeals can be found in the HMRC leaflet WTC/AP 'How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award' which is available on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf

Working tax credit and child tax credit were introduced in April 2003 and tax credits award notices include a message about a claimant's right of appeal.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Data Protection Act 1998: Prosecutions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what penalties and further obligations have been imposed on organisations or individuals who have been successfully prosecuted under the *(a)* Data Protection Act 1998 and *(b)* Computer Misuse Act 1990 over the last 12 months. [190696]

Mr. Thomas: BERR has not prosecuted any offences under either the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in the past 12 months.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) officials, broken down by advisers, communications officials and other officials and (B) Ministers and (ii) from departmental IP addresses and (iii) from IP addresses of (1) officials, broken down by special advisers, communications officials and other officials and (2) Ministers in (x) his Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [195191]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193524]

Mr. Thomas: The total cost for overnight accommodation in the last 12 months (March 2007-February 2008) was:

(i) Mainland Great Britain—£794,048

(ii) Northern Ireland—£0.00

(iii) Republic of Ireland—£2,769

(iv) Other countries—£285,403

The Department does not separately record the overnight accommodation undertaken by *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers—to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193391]

Mr. Thomas: The details for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform written questions answered between the beginning of this session and 25 February are as follows:

Weeks delayed	*Number*	*Of which: named day*
2-4	112	13
4-6	25	2
6-8	6	0
Over 8	4	0

During this period, the Department answered a total of 1,534 questions.

Employment Agencies

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many agency workers were employed by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [194888]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1[illegible] March 2008]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform currently employs 57 temporary agency workers.

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was *(a)* exported to and *(b)* imported from other EU member states by the UK (i) in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and (ii) in each year since 1978. [195367]

Mr. Thomas: Estimates of United Kingdom trade in goods and services with the European Union 27 are only available from 1999. The latest estimates are shown in the following table.

£ billion

	UK exports of goods and services	
	To EU27	*From EU27*
1999	131.2	141.6
2000	145.4	152.5
2001	149.9	164.1
2002	151.5	175.9
2003	151.0	179.4
2004	155.9	186.6
2005	169.6	207.0
2006	205.4	236.7

Source:
ONS Balance of Payments statistics.

Initial estimates for 2007 are due to be published by the Office for National Statistics on 28 March 2008.

Trade statistics, particularly in the first half of 2006, were affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud.

Estimates of UK trade in goods and services with the EU15 from 1978 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

£ billion

	UK exports of goods and services	
	To EU15	*From EU15*
1978	19.8	22.6
1979	25.1	28.4
1980	29.2	28.8
1981	29.8	30.7
1982	32.6	35.3
1983	37.3	41.3
1984	43.7	48.5
1985	49.6	53.0
1986	46.1	57.4
1987	51.0	63.8
1988	54.0	71.5
1989	61.6	81.0
1990	69.6	83.2
1991	73.9	78.2
1992	78.9	84.2
1993	84.7	90.2
1994	93.8	100.4
1995	108.9	113.3
1996	117.3	122.7
1997	118.7	123.2
1998	121.6	127.6
1999	126.6	136.7
2000	139.9	146.3
2001	144.1	156.8
2002	145.3	167.9
2003	144.1	170.2
2004	148.4	176.0
2005	161.1	194.0

Source:
ONS Balance of Payments statistics.

Data for 1991 and earlier years are not fully consistent with those for later years as they do not incorporate revisions or methodology changes made after 1997.

Government Shareholding

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is in relation to corporate social responsibility in exercising shareholder rights in relation to Government-owned shares; and if he will make a statement. [194297]

Mr. McFadden: The shareholder executive manages its shareholdings in line with the Government shareholding principles, as described in the 2004-05 shareholder executive annual report (annex D) found on page 67 of the report weblink:

http://www.shareholderexecutive.gov.uk/publications/pdf/annualreport0405.pdf

The shareholder executive expects to govern the social, ethical and environmental behaviour of businesses within its portfolio and principle 9 states:

"Businesses should manage effectively relationships with their employees, suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders who have a legitimate interest in the business's activities. Businesses should behave ethically and have due regard for the environment and society as a whole."

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of the Government's shareholdings *(a)* in total and *(b)* in accordance with socially responsible investment policies was in each of the last five years. [194298]

Mr. McFadden: Each year the shareholder executive assesses the financial performance of its portfolio businesses as can be seen in its annual reports. This assessment is based on an economic profit methodology which uses reported results to calculate year on year changes in shareholder value for the executive's diverse range of businesses. However this does not provide an absolute valuation of the executive's target businesses.

As part of the NAO's audit of shareholder executive in February 2007 the NAO conducted a further exercise to ascertain an appropriate aggregate valuation of 18 businesses in the executive's portfolio. The NAO estimated that the enterprise value of the executive's portfolio to be between £17.1 billion and £20.8 billion as of 30 June 2006. This estimate is subject to caveats as outlined in Appendix 3 to the NAO report "The Shareholder Executive and Public Sector Businesses". Weblink:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607255.pdf

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* it agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193821]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

(a) My Department has made payments amounting to £180,000 to Ipsos Mori over the past 24 months. Of this amount, £55,000 was spent on a study to establish the readiness of public sector bodies for the digital switchover in the borders region, £53,000 was spent on Department of Trade and Industry Stakeholder Research, £23,000 on Business Relations surveys, £22,000 on Attitudes to Animal Experimentation and £19,000 on Captains of Industry surveys (used by leading organisations to evaluate the effectiveness of their brand).

(b) No payments have been made to Ipsos Mori in the last 24 months by either of BERR's agencies (Companies House and the Insolvency Service).

Members: Correspondence

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance he issues to his Department's parliamentary unit on responses to correspondence from hon. Members. [195279]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) parliamentary unit does not deal with Members of Parliament's correspondence. The Department's ministerial correspondence and enquiry unit has lead responsibility for handling correspondence and for meeting the targets associated with this task.

Guidance and advice on dealing with Members' correspondence is available to BERR staff on the Department's intranet site.

Overseas Companies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will require all companies registered in the UK to include in their annual reports all their overseas subsidiaries, including information on *(a)* numbers of employees and *(b)* revenues. [194242]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* UK companies are required to comply with the reporting and accounting provisions of the Companies Act 1985 which will be substantially restated by the Companies Act 2006 and its accompanying regulations for financial years from 6 April 2008. The provisions for accounts and reports to disclose information about overseas subsidiaries restate the current requirements under the Companies Act 1985, including disclosure in the notes to accounts of the names and locations of subsidiary undertakings incorporated overseas, but do not require details of numbers of employees or of revenues. There are no plans to change these requirements.

Petrol: Prices

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Office of Fair Trading to investigate pricing by petroleum retailers at regional level; and if he will make a statement. [194231]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is the independent competition regulator responsible for promoting effective competition and enforcing competition law. Anyone with any evidence of anti-competitive conduct by petrol retailers should pass the relevant information to the OFT.

The OFT also has the power to refer markets to the Competition Commission where it suspects a market may have anti-competitive features. In addition, the OFT itself carries out market studies where it considers a market may not be working well for consumers and may have anti-competitive features. The OFT has published guidance on how it operates market studies, including information about how it prioritises which markets to study. The OFT's guidance on market studies can be found on their website at the following URL.:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/shared_oft/business_leaflets/enterprise_act/oft519.pdf.

Post Offices

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether sub-post offices that were to have been closed under the Network Change Programme but are kept open under arrangements agreed between Post Office Ltd. and local authorities will count against the Government's target for 2,500 post office closures; and if he will make a statement. [193754]

Mr. McFadden: Where a local authority or community group enters into an arrangement with Post Office Ltd to fund the continued provision of post office services to a community where the sub-post office has been confirmed for closure under the Network Change Programme, the business model for that service provision will change and become the financial responsibility of the local authority or community group. The closure of the former sub-post office will count towards the total number of closures under the programme.

Post Offices: Yealand

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the Post Office of keeping Yealand Post Office open for five hours each week. [194257]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Brussels

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on regional government: Brussels, what contributions were made by each regional development agency to the relevant offices in Brussels in each of the last three years. [195004]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1849W.

Regional Development Agencies: Expenditure

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much and what percentage of regional development agency funding was spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* overseas offices in each year for which figures are available, broken down by regional development agency. [193747]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The following tables show how much grant in aid RDAs spent on advertising and overseas offices. Advertising figures relate to marketing activity to promote the region, for both tourism and investment. Overseas offices refer to RDA inward investment offices.

2002-03

RDAs	*Grant in aid (£ million)*	*Advertising (£000)*	*Advertising as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*	*Cost of overseas offices (£000)*	*Cost of overseas offices as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*
AWM	204	511	0.25	54	0.26
EEDA	88	261	0.30	258	0.29
EMDA	101	102	0.10	0	0.00
LDA	295	77	0.03	0	0.00
NWDA	274	149	0.05	520	0.19
ONE	193	0	0.00	786	0.41
SEEDA	112	143	0.13	119	0.11
SWRDA	103	449	0.44	714	0.69
YF	211	2,062	0.98	329	0.16

2003-04

RDAs	*Grant in aid (£ million)*	*Advertising (£000)*	*Advertising as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*	*Cost of overseas offices (£000)*	*Cost of overseas offices as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*
AWM	240	553	0.23	989	0.41
EEDA	80	131	0.16	246	0.31
EMDA	117	110	0.09	905	0.77
LDA	317	333	0.11	0	0.00
NWDA	309	99	0.03	590	0.19
ONE	223	207	0.09	760	0.34
SEEDA	136	201	0.15	421	0.31
SWRDA	99	432	0.44	821	0.83
YF	244	599	0.25	412	0.17

2004-05

RDAs	*Grant in aid (£ million)*	*Advertising (£000)*	*Advertising as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*	*Cost of overseas offices (£000)*	*Cost of overseas offices as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*
AWM	217	1,366	0.63	1154	0.53
EEDA	84	0	0.00	220	0.26
EMDA	119	99	0.08	822	0.69
LDA	328	634	0.19	0	0.00
NWDA	367	198	0.05	635	0.17
ONE	227	1,302	0.57	782	0.34
SEEDA	110	363	0.33	406	0.37
SWRDA	113	960	0.85	606	0.54
YF	288	642	0.22	757	0.26

2005-06

RDAs	*Grant in aid (£ million)*	*Advertising (£000)*	*Advertising as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*	*Cost of overseas offices (£000)*	*Cost of overseas offices as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*
AWM	272	1,473	0.54	883	0.32
EEDA	129	0	0.00	230	0.18
EMDA	156	85	0.05	796	0.51
LDA	373	275	0.07	0	0.00
NWDA	382	185	0.05	645	0.17
ONE	240	3,374	1.41	836	0.35
SEEDA	157	232	0.15	380	0.24
SWRDA	153	1,227	0.80	672	0.44
YF	295	1,006	0.34	606	0.21

2006-07

RDAs	*Grant in aid (£ million)*	*Advertising (£000)*	*Advertising as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*	*Cost of overseas offices (£000)*	*Cost of overseas offices as a proportion of grant in aid (percentage)*
AWM	284	3,144	1.11	892	0.31
EEDA	134	0	0.00	114	0.09
EMDA	163	35	0.02	745	0.46
LDA	391	393	0.10	261	0.07
NWDA	400	414	0.10	668	0.17
ONE	251	4,450	1.77	733	0.29
SEEDA	163	163	0.10	701	0.43
SWRDA	159	1,271	0.80	605	0.38
YF	310	701	0.23	563	0.18

Renewable Energy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 809W, on renewable energy, *(a)* how many grants have been allocated and *(b)* how much has been committed for the installation of (i) wind turbines, (ii) wood fuelled boiler systems, (iii) solar thermal hot water, (iv) solar photovoltaics, (v) small hydro projects, (vi) heat pumps, (vii) ground source heat pumps and (viii) biomass room heaters and stores under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (A) in total and (B) in each region in each month since September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [188962]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the launch of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 there have been 7,698 grants (excluding rejections) with a total value of £22,258,051 committed (excluding rejections)—details are as in the following table and further details have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Department does not hold the information centrally in the format requested regarding installations in each region. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Low carbon building programme—Phase 1 total: Since launch—May 2006 to end of February 2008 by technology

Technology	*Total committed*[1]		*Dropped out*[2]		*Total currently committed*[3]		*Total paid*		*Total unclaimed*	
	No.	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*
Biomass Room Heater/Stove[4]	42	77,464	23	11,419	19	66,045	9	11,562	10	54,483
CHP	1	29,537	0	0	1	29,537	0	0	1	29,537
Ground Source Heat Pump	593	3,587,970	134	174,748	459	3,413,223	243	324,641	216	3,088,581
Heat Pumps (Air)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Scale Hydro	15	213,074	2	4,300	13	208,774	1	3,000	12	205,774
Solar Photovoltaic	1,044	7,786,759	167	942,430	876	6,844,329	658	4,086,832	218	2,754,497
Solar Thermal Hot Water	3,678	2,767,887	612	275,294	3,040	2,492,593	2,564	1,141,547	476	1,351,046
Water Source Heat Pump	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wind Turbine	1,926	4,040,025	1,269	1,100,759	648	2,939,266	525	1,241,941	123	1,697,325
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	399	3,755,335	76	613,452	315	3,141,883	142	320,923	173	2,820,960
Grand total	7,698	22,258,051	2,283	3,122,403	5,371	19,135,649	4,142	7,130,447	1,229	12,002,202

[1] Excluding rejections.
[2] Expired or withdrew.
[3] All currently active Apps.
[4] Automated Wood pellet Feed.

Low carbon building programme—Phase 1 householders: since launch May 2006 to end of February 2008 by Technology

Technology	*Total apps received*	*Total committed*[1]		*Dropped out*[2]		*Total currently committed*[3]		*Total paid*		*Total unclaimed*	
		No.	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*	*No.*	*£*
Biomass Room Heater/Stove[4]	47	35	17,811	23	11,419	12	6,392	8	4,098	4	2,294
Ground Source Heat Pump	647	530	632,659	132	156,547	398	476,113	238	284,305	160	[illegible]1,808
Heat Pumps (Air)	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Scale Hydro	18	10	31,000	2	4,300	8	26,700	1	3,000	7	23,700
Solar Photovoltaic	1,051	957	5,292,155	164	889,340	792	4,402,814	646	3,977,920	146	424,895
Solar Thermal Hot Water	4,254	3,582	1,417,245	610	240,802	2,946	1,176,443	2,351	1,019,583	395	156,860
Water Source Heat Pump	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wind Turbine	2,026	1,843	2,298,663	1,265	1,055,648	569	1,243,015	515	1,144,191	54	98,824
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	414	313	443,473	72	101,497	233	341,976	129	188,191	104	153,785

Low carbon building programme—Phase I householders: since launch May 2006 to end of February 2008 by Technology

Technology	Total apps received	Total committed[1]		Dropped out[2]		Total currently committed[3]		Total paid		Total unclaimed	
		No	£	No	£	No	£	No	£	No	£
Grand total	8,467	7,270	10,133,005	2,268	2,459,553	4,958	7,673,452	4,088	6,621,287	870	1,052,165

[1] Excluding rejections

[2] Expired or withdrew

[3] All currently active Apps

[4] Automated Wood pellet Feed

Low carbon building programme—Phase I Communities: since launch—May 2006 to end of February 2008 by technology

Technology	Total Apps received	Total unique apps[1]	Total requested (£)	Total committed	Total committed (£)	Dropped out[2]	Dropped out[2] (£)
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	3	3	21,223	1	7,546	0	0
Ground Source Heat Pump	15	15	236,675	9	112,229	1	8,441
Small Scale Hydro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solar Photovoltaic	35	35	361,796	32	347,748	1	17,066
Solar Thermal Hot Water	42	42	500,289	29	377,401	2	34,493
Wind Turbine	55	54	694,760	31	384,920	3	34,876
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	19	19	358,542	16	325,549	0	0
Grand total	169	168	2,173,285	118	1,555,392	7	94,876

Technology	Total currently committed[3]	Total currently committed[3] (£)	Total paid	Total paid (£)	Total unclaimed	Total unclaimed (£)
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	1	7,546	1	7,464	0	82
Ground Source Heat Pump	8	103,787	3	40	5	72,848
Small Scale Hydro	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solar Photovoltaic	31	330,682	9	93,019	22	237,663
Solar Thermal Hot Water	27	342,908	9	94,606	18	248,303
Wind Turbine	28	350,044	9	82	19	258,462
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	16	325,549	4	55	12	267,194
Grand total	111	1,460,516	35	966	76	1,084,551

[1] Excluding resubmissions

[2] Expired or withdrawn

[3] All currently active apps

Low carbon building programme—Phase I Stream 2A: since launch May 2006 to end of February 2008 by technology

Technology	Total apps received	Total unique apps[1]	Total requested (£)	Total committed	Total committed (£)	Dropped out[2]	Dropped out[2] (£)
Biomass Room Heater/ Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	52,108	0	0
Ground Source Heat Pump	n/a	n/a	n/a	40	701,050	1	9,760
Small Scale Hydro	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	123,468	0	0
Solar Photovoltaic	n/a	n/a	n/a	46	1,015,930	2	36,023
Solar Thermal Hot Water	n/a	n/a	n/a	54	619,414	0	0
Wind Turbine	n/a	n/a	n/a	45	843,026	1	10,235
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	1,198,603	3	61,191
Grand total	n/a	n/a	16,237,344	254	4,553,599	7	117,209

Technology	Total currently committed[3]	Total currently committed[3] (£)	Total paid	Total paid (£)	Total Unclaimed	Total Unclaimed (£)
Biomass Room Heater/Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	6	52,108	0	0	6	52,108
Ground Source Heat Pump	39	691,290	2	9,397	37	681,893
Small Scale Hydro	3	123,468	0	0	3	123,468
Solar Photovoltaic	44	979,907	3	15,894	41	961,013
Solar Thermal Hot Water	54	619,414	4	27,359	50	592,056
Wind Turbine	44	832,791	1	6,168	43	826,623

Technology	*Total currently committed*[3]	*Total currently committed*[3] *(£)*	*Total paid*	*Total paid (£)*	*Total Unclaimed*	*Total Unclaimed (£)*
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	57	1,137,412	9	74,377	[illegible]8	1,063,035
Grand total	247	4,436,390	19	133,194	228	4,300,195

n/a = not available
[1] Excluding resubmissions
[2] Expired or withdrawn
[3] All currently active apps

Since launch May 2006 to end of February 2008 by technology

Technology CHP	*Total apps received*	*Total unique apps*[1]	*Total requested (£)*	*Total committed*	*Total committed (£)*	*Dropped out*[2]	*Dropped out*[2] *(£)*
Biomass Room Heater/Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	29,537	0	0
Ground Source Heat Pump	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	2,142,033	0	0
Small Scale Hydro	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	58,606	0	0
Solar Photovoltaic	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	1,130,926	0	0
Solar Thermal Hot Water	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	353,827	0	0
Wind Turbine	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	513,416	0	0
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	1,787,710	1	450,764
Grand total	n/a	n/a	14,275,560	56	6,016,054	1	450,764

Technology CHP	*Total currently committed*[3]	*Total currently committed*[3] *(£)*	*Total paid*	*Total paid (£)*	*Total unclaimed*	*Total unclaimed (£)*
Biomass Room Heater/Stove (automated wood pellet feed)	1	29,537	0	0	1	29,537
Ground Source Heat Pump	14	2,142,033	0	0	14	2,142.03
Small Scale Hydro	2	58,606	0	0	2	58,606
Solar Photovoltaic	9	1,130,926	0	0	9	1,130,92
Solar Thermal Hot Water	13	353,827	0	0	13	353,827
Wind Turbine	7	513,416	0	0	7	513,416
Wood Fuelled Boiler System	9	1,336,946	0	0	9	1,33[illegible]94
Grand total	55	5,565,290	0	0	55	5,565,290

n/a = not available
[1] Excluding resubmissions
[2] Expired or withdrawn
[3] All currently active apps

Royal Mail: Finance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with Royal Mail on how much it receives in payment for each item of mail private businesses post using downstream access. [194256]

Mr. McFadden: As the Department with responsibility for the Government's shareholding, BERR Ministers and officials meet Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues. Access by other companies to the Royal Mail network is a matter for commercial negotiation between Royal Mail, the company concerned and, if need be, Postcomm. Royal Mail's Report and Accounts for 2006-07 stated that the average revenue per item for delivering access mail was 13p.

Royal Mail: Universal Service Obligation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to amend the universal service obligation of Royal Mail to include small and medium-sized enterprises, with particular reference to a guaranteed early delivery. [194219]

Mr. McFadden: The Government consider the maintenance of a universal postal service to be of the highest importance. Under the terms of the Postal Services Act 2000, the universal service is a matter for the postal regulator (Postcomm), which has the primary statutory duty to ensure the provision of a universal postal service at an affordable uniform tariff. Postcomm has the responsibility for defining the requirements of the universal service obligation in consultation with users.

An independent review of the postal services market was announced on 17 December 2007. It has three terms of reference, one of which is to consider how to maintain the universal service obligation in the light of trends and market developments. The review will provide postal carriers and other interested parties with a formal opportunity to contribute their thinking on this and on the future of the postal services market in the UK.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the ability of Postcomm to *(a)* protect and *(b)* sustain the universal service obligation of Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [194220]

Mr. McFadden: The Government consider the maintenance of a universal postal service to be of the highest importance.

Under the terms of the Postal Services Act 2000, Postcomm's primary statutory duty is to ensure the provision of a universal postal service at an affordable uniform tariff. Postcomm's decisions relating to Royal Mail and the wider market are all taken in the context of this duty.

The regulator is accountable directly to Parliament through the Select Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

Small Businesses: Morecambe and Lunesdale

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department makes available to start-up businesses in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194778]

Mr. McFadden: Support is available to all individuals seeking to start up in business within this constituency through the Business Link North West Universal Service. In addition, in line with the priorities of the North West Regional Economic Strategy 2006, there is additional support to individuals in under represented groups—women, disabled and members of BME communities—through the North West Development Agency Business Start Up Project.

During the current financial year the Business Link North West Universal Service has assisted 343 businesses and individuals from the area; while the Agency's Start Up Project has assisted 14 businesses to commence trading and is currently working with a further 32 individuals who are considering starting a business.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18 year olds were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* cautioned and *(c)* prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in each London borough in the last five years for which data is available; and if she will make a statement. [183235]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The information requested covering cautions and prosecutions for offences of *(a)* Drunkenness, *(b)* Drunkenness with aggravation, *(c)* Offences against the licensing acts, *(d)* other offences against intoxicating liquor laws, *(e)* selected motoring offences in Greater London is provided in the following table. Data broken down by London borough are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group only, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Number of under 18-year-olds cautioned by the police and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to alcohol—Greater London, 2002-06[1,2]

		Cautioned by the police					Proceeded against at magistrates courts				
	Offence/offence class	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
140	Drunkenness, simple[3]	151	336	160	70	59	253	237	188	144	132
141	Drunkenness, with aggravation[4]	428	579	385	265	330	2,408	2,385	1,179	971	1,170
142	Offences by licensed person, etc.[5]	—	—	—	—	—	27	137	182	272	181
143	Other offences against Intoxicating Liquor Laws[6]	6	—	1	3	6	52	53	29	38	154
406	Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs[7]	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	2	2
803	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[8]	—	—	—	—	—	13,075	12,670	12,999	12,791	12,880

Number of under 18-year-olds cautioned by the police and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to alcohol—Greater London, 2002-06[1,2]

		Cautioned by the police					Proceeded against at magistrates courts				
	Offence/offence class	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Total	585	915	546	338	395	15,816	15,485	14,581	14,218	14,519

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes offences of being found drunk in a highway or public place, drunk in a vehicle or drunk while entering a designated sports event.

[4] Includes offences of being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour, drunk with a loaded firearm and refusing to leave licensed premises when requested.

[5] Offences by license holders only: Includes offences of the illegal sale of alcohol and failure to follow licensing regulations.

[6] Offences by non-license holders: Includes offences of falsely claiming to be a licensee and illegally supplying alcohol to children

[7] Offence cannot separately identify whether drink or drugs specifically were involved.

[8] Offence covers summary offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Alcoholic Drinks: Prosecutions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for sale of alcohol to a drunk person have been pursued in each criminal justice area in each of the last 10 years; and how many resulted in conviction. [180410]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sale of alcohol to a drunken person, under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003. The data has been broken down by police force area.

Data is provided for 2004 to 2006 only as prior to the Licensing Act 2003 coming into force, data for the offence was not held to the level of detail required.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence was added to the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme on 4 April 2005. Data has been provided for the number issued by police force area in 2005 and 2006.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts found guilty at all courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk under the licensing act 2003 section 141, by police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2006[1, 2]

	Proceeded against at magistrates court			Found guilty at all courts			Penalty notices for disorder issued	
Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Transport police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Lancashire	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	4
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1
Thames Valley	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts found guilty at all courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk under the licensing act 2003 section 141, by police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2006[1, 2]

	Proceeded against at magistrates court			*Found guilty at all courts*			*Penalty notices for disorder issued*	
Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	—	—	2	—	—	1	32	47

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Court proceedings data are provided on the principal offence basis, PND data are a count of tickets issued.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years old for consumption off the premises in 2006. [186319]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 and allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18 are in the following table. My Department cannot completely differentiate between sales made on the premises from sales made off the premises, as data are not held to the level required. However data have been excluded in relation to on-premises in cases where it has been identified.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for the sale of alcohol and allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2006[1,2,3]

	Number of defendants
Proceeded against	457
Found guilty	328

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] My Department cannot completely differentiate between sales made on the premises from sales made off the premises, as data are not held to the level required. However data have been excluded in relation to on-premises in cases where it has been identified.

Source:

RDS-OCJR—Ministry of Justice

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensees were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of selling alcohol to under-age drinkers in each of the last five years. [180810]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The following table provides information on prosecutions and convictions for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years, in each of the last five years.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004, and there were 113 penalty notices issued for the offence in November and December of that year. Additionally, another 2,058 penalty notices were issued in 2005 and 3,195 were issued in 2006.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to under-age customers, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2002	170	105
2003	616	419
2004	841	593
2005	1,084	772
2006	1,199	854

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers the offences: Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17, Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and Allowing Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.147. Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005. The first two offences cannot separately identify on and off premises consumption although both are covered by the statutes.

Sources:

RDS, Court proceedings database

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many test purchases relating to the sale of alcohol to those under the age of 18 years were undertaken in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and how many prosecutions were brought as a result of such test purchase operations in each such year. [191800]

Mr. Coaker: Both the police and Trading Standards can routinely conduct test purchases locally in line with local operational priorities. These details are not centrally collated by the Home Office, so no records of all such test purchases are available.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the number of test purchases for the sale of alcohol to those under the age of 18 years.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify "test purchases" or criminal proceedings brought before court as a result of "test purchase operations".

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the offence 'sale of alcohol to those aged under 18' in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

In addition, under the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme, fixed penalty notices of £80 may be issued by the police for the offence of sale of alcohol to those aged under 18; the offence was added to the scheme in November 2004. The number of PNDs issued for the offence in England and Wales was 113 in 2004; 2,058 in 2005; and 3,195 in 2006.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Since 2004 the Home Office has co-ordinated a number of national alcohol enforcement campaigns which have included an element of, or have focused exclusively on test purchase activity.

Four national Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (2004-06) included within them an element of test purchase activity. Subsequent Tackling Underage Sales Campaigns (2006-07) have focused exclusively on underage sales targeting perceived problem premises.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 18 in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against
1997	214
1998	310
1999	204
2000	130
2001	155
2002	168
2003	604
2004	856
2005	1,073
2006	1,181

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes, and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 2003 5.146(1): sale of alcohol to person under 18
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.4(1)(a), Licensing Act 1964 SS.169A and 169B, as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000:
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice Our Ref: IOS 148-08 (Table)

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were fined for selling alcohol to under-age persons in each year since 1997; and what the average such fine was in each year. [191802]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons[1] fined for the offence of selling alcohol to persons under 18 and the average fine amount, all courts, England and Wales 1997-2006

Offence description		Number fined[1]	Average fine amount (£)
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on premises	1997	111	227
	1998	129	212
	1999	95	194
	2000	46	206
	2001	42	208
	2002	78	244
	2003	344	249
	2004	515	237
	2005	662	245
	2006	434	288

[1] Principal offence basis.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice
3 March 2008
Ref: AHA093-08

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued in *(a)* Easington constituency and *(b)* the County of Durham since their introduction; and if she will make a statement. [194127]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available.

Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office has issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in Cornwall since their introduction. [191933]

Mr. Coaker: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice System (CJS) area is 178 up to 31 December 2005 (latest available). We hope to publish soon data for the period up to the end of 2006.

Cocaine

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 377-8W, on cocaine, (1) how many of the premises defined as crack houses were also in use as residential dwellings at the point at which the closure order was issued; [189356]

(2) how many of the crackhouse closure orders were successfully enforced in each year for which figures are available. [189357]

Mr. Coaker: 722 crack house closure orders were successfully obtained since 1 October 2003 and up to March 2006. Information on crack houses which were in use as private dwellings is not available.

Crime Prevention: Lighting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of street lighting in reducing *(a)* crime and *(b)* fear of crime. [193948]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office commissioned a systematic review of the impact of street lighting on levels of crime, published in 2002 as Home Office Research Study 251, "Effects of improved street lighting on crime: a systematic review". A copy of the report can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors251.pdf

The review by Professors David Farrington and Brandon Welsh summarises the findings of previous studies from both the USA and Britain on the effectiveness of improved street lighting on crime. The review found that improved street lighting led to significant reductions in crime (around 20 per cent. across all the studies reviewed). The review did not cover impact on fear of crime.

Crime: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 429-30W, on crime: Darlington, what the crime detection rates were for the South Durham basic command unit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [192864]

Mr. Coaker: The 2006-07 detection rates for the South Durham basic command unit are given in the following table.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detections rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Detection rates in the South Durham basic command unit—2006-07

Offence group	*Percentage* *Detection rate*
Violence against the person	64
Sexual offences	46
Robbery	28
Burglary	15
Offences against vehicles	11
Other theft offences	27
Fraud and forgery	49
Criminal damage	16
Drug offences	91
Other miscellaneous offences	80
Total	29

Crime: Detection Rates

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the feasibility of identifying separately the number of *(a)* crimes reported to the police and *(b)* crimes discovered by the police. [194582]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office criteria for the recording of crimes by police is laid out in the Home Office counting rules for crime (HOCR) and also the national crime recording standard (NCRS). These are both public documents available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

The HOCR are updated every year from 1 April after consultation with police forces on issues that may need clarification or when new laws are enacted or old laws repealed.

At present there are no plans to further separately identify the number of crimes reported to or discovered by the police.

Crime: Statistics

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February, *Official Report*, column 581W, on crime: statistics, what steps she is taking to ensure that more crimes are reported to the police. [194110]

Mr. Coaker: It is a matter for individual victims of crime whether they decide to report crimes to the police.

Police forces have differing mechanisms in which victims of crime can contact them to report crimes. This can include third party referral sites, internet reporting, local community beat officer surgeries, call centres that take crimes directly over the telephone and also where the public directly ask police for assistance as the result of a crime.

Where crimes are reported they have to be recorded in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which was introduced in April 2002 which has twin aims of a victim orientated approach and also to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 581W, on crime: statistics, what factors contributed to the estimate of the 2006-07 British Crime Survey that more than half of crimes are never reported to the police. [194111]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) gives a count of crime that includes those that are not reported to the police or recorded by them. Victims who did not report the incident to the police are asked for the reasons why, and these are reported annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales', copies of which can be found in the House of Common's library.

As in previous years, the latest figures from the 2006-07 BCS showed that the most common reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them. (71 per cent. of all comparable incidents—those crimes covered by both the BCS and police recorded crime). The second most common reason given was that the victim considered the issue to be a private matter and dealt with it themselves (17 per cent.).

A more detailed breakdown of the figures by offence category from the 2006-07 BCS can be found in the following table.

Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2006-07 BCS

Percentage

	Vandalism	*Burglary*	*Thefts from vehicles and attempts*[1]	*Other household theft*	*Other personal theft*	*BCS violence*[2]	*Comparable subset*[3]	*All BCS*
Trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything[4]	83	70	84	81	66	46	71	72
Private/dealt with ourselves	10	17	10	13	13	34	17	16
Inconvenient to report	5	6	7	5	6	4	6	6
Reported to other authorities	2	2	1	2	14	8	4	5
Common occurrence	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	3
Fear of reprisal	3	4	0	2	1	7	3	3
Dislike or fear of the police/ previous bad experience with the police or courts	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
Other[5]	3	9	5	3	9	10	6	6
Unweighted base	2,805	362	1,323	1,414	604	933	6,234	8,252

Notes:

[1] Thefts of vehicles not shown as very few incidents were not reported.

[2] Comparable BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.

[3] The comparable crime subset includes vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, wounding, assault with and without minor injury and robbery.

[4] Too trivial/no loss/would not have been interested/police could not do anything/attempt at offence was unsuccessful are merged due to the similarity in their definition, for example a respondent who thinks the incident was too trivial may code the incident as 'too trivial, no loss' or 'the police would not be interested' as these two codes may be understood as meaning the same.

[5] This category includes: something that happens as part of job; partly my/friend's/relative's fault; offender not responsible for actions; thought someone else had reported incident/similar incidents; tried to report but was not able to contact the police/police not interested; other.

Source:

2006/07 BCS. More than one reason could be given.

Crime: Telford

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in *(a)* car crime, *(b)* violent crime, *(c)* house burglary and *(d)* incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Telford division of West Mercia Police during the last five years. [193908]

Mr. Coaker: There have been very substantial falls in vehicle crime and domestic burglary in the Telford and Wrekin division of the West Mercia police force area. Between 2002-03 and 2006-07, recorded vehicle crime in Telford and Wrekin fell by 46 per cent. (from 2,797 offences to 1,506). Domestic burglary fell by 68 per cent. (from 1,433 offences to 462).

Following a change made in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics, the Home Office no longer use the term violent crime in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now concentrate on figures for violence against the person. Between 2002-03 and 2006-07, violence against the person fell by 35 per cent. (from 4,280 offences to 2,795).

Overall, vehicle crime accounted for 11 per cent. of all recorded crime in the Division in 2006-07. Violence against the person and domestic burglary accounted for 21 and 3 per cent. of all recorded crime respectively.

With regard to assessing antisocial behaviour, this is measured through a measure of perceptions using the British Crime Survey (BCS), a nationally representative survey of adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England and Wales.

The size of the sample in the BCS means that we cannot provide reliable data for geographical areas smaller than police force areas and we are therefore not able to make a reliable assessment about trends in antisocial behaviour in the Telford and the Wrekin division.

Crimes of Violence: Ashford

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person have been recorded in Ashford in each of the last five years. [195144]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Violence against the person offences recorded by the police in Ashford

	Number of offences
2002-03	1,156
2003-04	1,255
2004-05	1,573
2005-06	1,548
2006-07	1,499

Crimes of Violence: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Ministerial Action Group to assess the implementation of the Government's Action Plan for Tackling Violence is planned to meet; and when the first annual report on progress in implementing the plan will be published. [194284]

Mr. Coaker: Governance and performance management arrangements for the very recently published Action Plan for Tackling Violence are not yet finalised.

The Ministerial Action Group will meet regularly, though its frequency has yet to be decided. The first annual report will be published shortly after the end of the financial year 2008-09.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for domestic violence offences in each of the last five years, broken down by police force; how many of those arrested were *(a)* released without charge and *(b)* cautioned; and if she will make a statement. [192677]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. As part of this collection there is no information on the circumstances behind the offences nor on arrest outcomes (e.g. whether the person arrested was released without charge or given a caution).

Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the domestic violence enforcement campaign conducted between December 2007 and January 2008. [194282]

Mr. Coaker: The Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign (DVEC), which ran during December 2007 and January 2008, aimed to improve the local response to domestic violence by building on lessons learned in the 2006 DVECs. A key aspect of this was to encourage partnership working to protect victims and their children through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process.

We are currently analysing data submitted by those police forces which took part in the DVEC and aim to publish our findings later in the spring.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries the UK has asset seizure agreements in respect of illegal drug dealing; and what plans she has to *(a)* extend the scope of existing agreements and *(b)* conclude agreements with further countries. [194135]

Mr. Coaker: The Government currently have formal asset seizure sharing agreements with the USA, Canada, Jamaica, Netherlands, Columbia and the United Arab Emirates, although these are not specific to drug dealing. We are aiming to refresh some existing agreements. We are also willing to enter informal sharing agreements with other jurisdictions on a case by case basis. In addition, in our Asset Recovery Action Plan launched in May 2007 we undertook to agree a priority list of countries for negotiating new asset sharing agreements by March this year. A provisional list has been drawn up and discussions are in progress with the relevant jurisdictions.

Firearms

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of an illegal handgun in each of the last 10 years. [19[illegible]280]

Mr. Coaker: Intelligence on the price of handguns has not been centrally recorded and collated over the period requested. However, Home Office Research

Study 298 (December 2006) reported that the cost of a handgun varied from £150 to £200, where it had previously been used in a crime, to £1,100 to £1,400 for a new 9 mm model.

Firearms: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed involving *(a)* handguns, *(b)* rifles, *(c)* shotguns, *(d)* air weapons and *(e)* imitation firearms in each year since 1996-97. [193453]

Mr. Coaker: The requested data from 1996 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 1996 to 2006-07

Number of offences

	1996	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*[1]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[2]	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[4]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Shotgun	933	580	565	642	693	608	712	672	718	597	642	613
Handgun	3,347	2,648	2,636	2,687	3,685	4,110	5,874	5,549	5,144	4,360	4,672	4,175
Rifle	62	51	55	43	67	36	64	52	48	54	71	69
Imitation firearm	436	511	533	566	823	787	1,246	1,814	2,146	3,373	3,277	2,517
Air weapon	7,813	7,506	7,902	8,665	10,103	10,227	12,377	13,822	13,756	11,825	10,439	8,839

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[2] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[4] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences. Particulary those commited by imitation weapons.

Forced Marriage: Children

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department makes to pass on to *(a)* schools and *(b)* social services departments the details of children identified by the police, the Border and Immigration Agency or other Home Office bodies as being vulnerable to offences associated with surrounding forced marriage; and if she will make a statement. [194709]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Where children are identified as being vulnerable to forced marriage, actions to safeguard those children will be taken as part of child protection procedures. This will include the involvement of the police and local safeguarding children's boards.

Guidelines for professionals (police, education professionals, health and social workers) on dealing with cases of forced marriage have also been issued by the Forced Marriage Unit. When implemented, the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 will place these guidelines on a statutory footing.

Gating Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gating orders under the Highways Act 1980 were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in each local authority area in England in each year since 2001. [193685]

Mr. Coaker: Details of the number of "gating orders", *(a)* applied for are not collected centrally. Details of the number of "gating orders", *(b)* granted for crime or antisocial behaviour purposes under section 129A of the Highways Act 1980 are collected by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and are provided in the following table. These orders came into force on 1 April 2006.

Local authority	*Number of gating orders*
Ardur DC	—
Allerdale BC	—
Alnwick BC	—
Amber Valley BC	0
Arun DC	0
Ashfield DC	0
Ashford BC	—
Aylesbury Vale DC	0
Babergh DC	0
Barnsley MBC	0
Barrow in Furness BC	—
Basildon DC	0
Basingstoke and Deane BC	—
Bassetlaw DC	—
Bath and N E Somerset	0
Bedford BC	0
Berwick-upon-Tweed BC	0
Birmingham CC	—
Blaby DC	0
Blackburn and Darwen BC	—
Blackpool BC	0
Blyth Valley BC	—
Bolsover DC	—
Bolton MBC	0
Boston BC	0
Bournemouth BC	—
Bracknell Forest BC	—
Bradford MDC	—
Braintree DC	—
Breckland DC	0
Brentwood BC	0
Bridgnorth DC	0
Brighton and Hove BC	—
Bristol CC	—
Broadland DC	0
Bromsgrove DC	0
Broxbourne BC	—
Broxtowe DC	0

Local authority	*Number of gating orders*
Burnley BC	—
Bury BC	0
Calderdale BC	—
Cambridge CC	—
Cannock Chase DC	0
Canterbury CC	0
Caradon CC	0
Carlisle CC	—
Carrick CC	—
Castle Morpeth BC	0
Castle Point DC	0
Charnwood BC	—
Chelmsford BC	—
Cheltenham BC	—
Cherwell DC	0
Chester CC	0
Chester-le-Street DC	0
Chesterfield BC	0
Chichester DC	0
Chiltern DC	0
Chorley BC	0
Christchurch BC	0
Colchester BC	—
Congleton BC	0
Copeland BC	—
Corby DC	—
Cotswold DC	—
Coventry CC	2
Craven DC	0
Crawley BC	0
Crewe and Nantwich BC	—
Dacorum BC	0
Darlington BC	—
Dartford BC	0
Daventry DC	0
Derby CC	0
Derbyshire Dales DC	0
Derwentside DC	—
Doncaster DC	—
Dover DC	0
Dudley DC	—
Durham City Council	0
E Cambridgeshire DC	—
E Devon DC	0
E Dorset DC	0
E Hampshire DC	0
E Hertfordshire DC	0
E Lindsey DC	—
E Northamptonshire DC	—
E Riding of Yorkshire DC	0
E Staffordshire BC	—
Easington DC	0
Eastbourne BC	—
Eastleigh BC	0
Eden	0
Ellesmere Port and Neston	0
Elmbridge BC	0
Epping Forest DC	0
Epsom and Ewell BC	0
Erewash BC	0
Exeter CC	—
Fareham	0
Fenland DC	0
Forest Heath DC	0
Forest of Dean DC	—
Fylde BC	0
Gateshead BC	0
Gedling DC	—
Gloucester CC	—
Gosport BC	—
Gravesham BC	—
Great Yarmouth BC	0
Guildford BC	—
Halton BC	0
Hambleton DC	0
Harborough DC	0
Harlow DC	—
Harrogate BC	—
Hart DC	—
Hartlepool BC	—
Hastings BC	0
Havant BC	0
Herefordshire DC	0
Hertsmere BC	0
High Peak BC	0
Hinckley and Bosworth BC	0
Horsham DC	0
Huntingdonshire DC	0
Hyndburn BC	0
Ipswich BC	0
Isle of Wight DC	0
Isles of Scilly DC	0
Kennet DC	0
Kerrier DC	0
Kettering BC	0
Kings Lynn and W Norfolk DC	—
Kingston upon Hull City Council	—
Kirklees BC	0
Knowsley BC	—
Lancaster CC	0
LB Corporation of London	—
LB Barking and Dagenham	1
LB Barnet	0
LB Bexley	—
LB Brent	—
LB Bromley	—
LB Camden	0
LB Croydon	—
LB Ealing	—
LB Enfield	—
LB Greenwich	0
LB Hackney	0
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	—
LB Haringey	2
LB Harrow	0
LB Havering	0
LB Hillingdon	0
LB Hounslow	0
LB Islington	—
LB of Kensington and Chelsea	0
LB of Kingston upon Thames	—
LB Lambeth	0
LB Lewisham	—

Local authority	*Number of gating orders*
LB Merton	—
LB Newham	—
LB Redbridge	—
LB Richmond upon Thames	—
LB Sutton	—
LB Southwark	—
LB Tower Hamlets	0
LB Waltham Forest	0
LB Wandsworth	0
Leeds CC	7
Leicester City	—
Lewes DC	—
Lichfield DC	0
Lincoln CC	—
Liverpool CC	—
Luton BC	0
Macclesfield BC	—
Maidstone BC	—
Maldon DC	0
Malvern Hills DC	0
Manchester CC	—
Mansfield DC	—
Medway TC	1
Melton BC	—
Mendip DC	0
Mid Bedfordshire DC	0
Mid Devon DC	—
Mid Suffolk DC	0
Mid Sussex DC	—
Middlesbrough CC	0
Milton Keynes BC	—
Mole Valley DC	0
N Cornwall DC	0
N Devon DC	0
N Dorset DC	0
N Hertfordshire DC	0
N Kesteven DC	0
N Lincolnshire DC	10
Norfolk DC	0
N Shropshire DC	0
N Somerset DC	—
N Tyneside BC	—
N Wiltshire DC	—
N York Moors Park Authority	—
N E Derbyshire DC	0
N E Lincolnshire DC	—
N W Leicestershire DC	0
N Warwickshire BC	0
New Forest DC	0
Newark and Sherwood DC	—
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	0
Newcastle-under-Lyme BC	0
Northampton BC	—
Norwich CC	—
Nottingham CC	—
Nuneaton and Bedworth BC	—
Oadby and Wigston BC	0
Oldham BC	—
Oswestry BC	0
Oxford CC	—
Pendle BC	—
Penwith DC	0
Peterborough CC	0
Plymouth CC	—
Poole BC	—
Portsmouth CC	0
Preston CC	1
Purbeck DC	0
Reading DC	1
Redcar and Cleveland DC	0
Redditch BC	—
Reigate and Banstead BC	—
Restormel BC	—
Ribble Valley BC	0
Richmondshire DC	0
Rochdale BC	—
Rochford DC	0
Rossendale BC	0
Rother DC	—
Rotherham DC	1
Rugby BC	—
Runnymede BC	0
Rushcliffe BC	—
Rushmoor BC	0
Rutland CC	0
Ryedale CC	0
S Bedfordshire DC	—
S Bucks DC	—
S Cambridgeshire DC	0
S Derbyshire DC	—
S Gloucestershire DC	0
S Hams DC	0
S Holland DC	—
S Kesteven DC	—
S Lakeland DC	0
S Norfolk DC	—
S Northamptonshire DC	0
S Oxfordshire DC	0
S Ribble BC	0
S Shropshire DC	0
S Somerset DC	0
S Staffordshire C	0
S Tyneside DC	0
Salford CC	12
Salisbury DC	0
Sandwell BC	1
Scarborough BC	—
Sedgefield DC	—
Sedgemoor DC	0
Sefton MBC	—
Selby DC	0
Sevenoaks DC	—
Sheffield CC	—
Shepway DC	0
Shrewsbury and Atcham BC	—
Slough BC	—
Solihull BC	1
Southampton CC	1
Southend-on-Sea BC	0
Spelthorne BC	0
St. Albans CC	0
St. Edmundsbury BC	0
St. Helens MBC	0
Stafford BC	0

Local authority	*Number of gating orders*
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	0
Stevenage BC	0
Stockport BC	—
Stockton-on-Tees DC	3
Stoke-on-Trent CC	20
Stratford-on-Avon DC	0
Stroud DC	0
Suffolk Coastal DC	0
Sunderland CC	0
Surrey Heath BC	0
Swale BC	0
Swindon BC	—
Tameside BC	0
Tamworth BC	0
Tandridge DC	0
Taunton Deane DC	—
Teesdale DC	0
Teignbridge DC	—
Telford and Wrekin DC	0
Tendring DC	—
Test Valley BC	0
Tewkesbury BC	0
Thanet DC	—
Three Rivers DC	0
Thurrock BC	0
Tonbridge and Malling BC	0
Torbay BC	0
Torridge DC	—
Trafford BC	—
Tunbridge Wells BC	0
Tynedale DC	0
Uttlesford DC	0
Vale of White Horse DC	0
Vale Royal BC	0
W Devon DC	0
W Dorset DC	0
W Lancashire DC	0
W Lindsey DC	0
W Oxfordshire DC	—
W Somerset DC	0
W Wiltshire DC	0
Wakefield CC	—
Walsall BC	0
Wansbeck DC	0
Warrington BC	—
Warwick DC	0
Watford BC	0
Waveney DC	—
Waverley BC	0
Wealden DC	—
Wear Valley DC	0
Wellingborough DC	0
Welwyn Hatfield DC	0
West Berkshire	—
Westminster CC	—
Weymouth and Portland BC	0
Wigan BC	—
Winchester CC	—
Windsor and Maidenhead RB	0
Wirral MDC	—
Woking BC	0
Wokingham DC	0
Wolverhampton CC	—
Worcester CC	0
Worthing BC	—
Wychavon DC	—
Wycombe DC	—
Wyre BC	0
Wyre Forest DC	0
York CC	0
Total	64
Number of returns received	214

Government Departments: ICT

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the steps taken to improve cyber security and resilience across Government Departments. [195051]

Mr. McNulty: Government Departments are made resilient and robust in the face of cyber threats through constant monitoring and upgrading of Government networks including the Government secure intranet (GSI) now connecting in excess of 400,000 users.

GCHQ and the Centre for Protection of the National Infrastructure also provide warnings, alerts and emergency response as well as assessment of information security products and services.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for human trafficking offences in (a) Cleveland, (b) Stockton and (c) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [189338]

Mr. Coaker: The Sexual Offences Act came into force on 1 May 2004. 232 arrests have been made for human trafficking offences with 134 being charged with trafficking and related offences. Conviction figures under dedicated trafficking legislation for the United Kingdom are as follows:

	Number
2004	3
2005	21
2006	30
2007	17

There have been no arrests in Stockton nor Cleveland.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discretion she is able to exercise in granting *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* British citizenship to Gurkha soldiers who completed their service before 1 July 1997; and how many times that discretion was exercised in each year since 1997. [193714]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* I would refer the hon. Member to my reply of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 934-35W. Former Gurkhas who are unable to fulfil the requirements of the Immigration Rules, including those who were discharged from service before 1 July 1997, may benefit from concessionary arrangements on a case-by-case basis where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. Guidance for dealing with these cases is contained in Immigration Directorate Instructions Chapter 15, Section 2A, at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter15/

Discretion will have been exercised in all those cases where settlement was granted to former Gurkhas who retired prior to 1 July 1997 but it is not possible to separate the data provided to identify those who retired before on or after that date.

Gurkha soldiers who have completed their service in the British Army and wish to apply for British citizenship must make a successful application for naturalisation under section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. There is no distinction between those who enlisted before or after 1 July 1997.

Policy requirements and procedures for handling nationality applications are available for viewing on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/nationalityinstructions/nichapter18/

National Firearms Licensing Management System

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on national firearms licensing management system, when the National Policing Improvement Agency review of the effectiveness of the interface between the national firearms register on the Police National Computer and the National Firearms Licensing Management System will be completed; and if she will publish the results and recommendations of this review. [194286]

Mr. Coaker: Following successful completion of the implementation of the interface between the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) and the Police National Computer (PNC), a review of the efficiency of the interface between the two systems is now being conducted with a view to ensuring that the business benefits are fully realised by the Police Service.

The review is being conducted by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The work has commenced, but it is too early to say when it will be completed. A summary of the review will be made available on the NPIA website:

www.npia.police.uk

as soon as it is available.

Police: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of police precepts on the council tax due following increases in *(a)* licensing hours and *(b)* the number of licensed premises since 1997. [192193]

Mr. Coaker: The recent changes to licensing law appear to have only increased opening hours by around 20 minutes on average across on-licensed premises. The Licensing Act 2003 brought in a new system for licensing the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. While no complete data exist for the total number of premises that were licensed under the old regimes, the 2003 Act has probably increased the number of licensed premises only by requiring late night take-aways outside London to be licensed for the first time. This measure has been welcomed by the police as a key benefit in helping them control potential flashpoints for alcohol related crime and disorder. The number of premises licensed for the sale of alcohol has decreased since 1997.

The evaluation of the Licensing Act 2003, published on 4 March 2007, concluded that the overall volume of crime and disorder has remained stable and not risen.

Prosecutions: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted under (i) section 172, (ii) section 172a and (iii) section 173 of the Licensing Act 1964 in each year since 1997; and how many landlords had their licences revoked as a consequence of breach of these provisions. [185641]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under (i) section 172, (ii) section 172a and (iii) section 173 of the Licensing Act 1964 can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in late November 2008.

The Licensing Act 2003 repealed the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Act when it came into effect on 24 November 2005.

The number of people proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Licensing Act 1964 sections 172,172A, and 173, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Statute: *Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 6. Licensing Act 1964 Sec 172.*	*Offence description:* *Holder of permission not to allow drunkenness etc. Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person.*
Year	*Proceeded against*[5]	*Found guilty*
1997	9	4
1998	22	11
1999	13	10
2000	10	2
2001	10	5
2002	7	4
2003	8	6
2004	13	6
2005	10	4
2006	6	1

	Statute:	*Offence description:*
	Licensing Act 1964 Sec 172A as added by Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S.32.	*Relevant person working in licensed premises to permit drunkenness or violent behaviour etc.*
Year	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	—	—
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	1	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
2005	—	—
2006	—	—

	Statute:	*Offence description:*
	Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 7. Licensing Act 1964 Sec 173.	*Person in licensed premises procuring intoxicating liquor for a drunken person or aiding a drunken person to obtain drink.*
Year	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	3	2
1998	5	3
1999	2	1
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	1	—
2003	1	—
2004	—	—
2005	1	1
2006	1	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Licensing Act 2003 repealed the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Act when it came into effect on 24 November 2005.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS - OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Prostitution

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to amend the law on street prostitution; and if she will make a statement. [194279]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are fully committed to legislating to remove the stigmatising and outdated term "common prostitute" from the statute books and to reframe the offence of loitering and soliciting. We also remain committed to provide a new court disposal to help those convicted of loitering or soliciting to break the cycle of offending and to develop routes out of prostitution and will look to introduce the necessary legislative changes as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Sexual Offences: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* sexual offences prevention orders, *(b)* risk of sexual harm orders and *(c)* foreign travel orders were issued in each of the last three years. [194331]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of risk of sexual harm orders issued are not collated. Figures for the number of sexual offence prevention orders (SOPOs) and the number of foreign travel orders (FTOs) issued in each of the last three years is provided as follows.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
SOPOs issued	503	937	1,114
FTOs issued	1	1	3

Sexual Offences: Registration

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders *(a)* were required to register with the police and *(b)* registered with the police in each of the last three years; and how many sex offenders breached registration requirements in each such year. [193858]

Mr. Coaker: Information recorded under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements and collated by the Ministry of Justice provides figures on the number of offenders who are registered with the police. The figures for the last three years are provided in the following table.

Figures for breaches of licence requirements, sexual offence prevention orders (SOPOs) and for those charged with a serious further offence (SFO) are provided in the following table in relation to sexual offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3.

	Total number of registered sex offenders
2004-05	28994
2005-06	29983
2006-07	30416

Breaches committed by registered sex offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3

	2004-05	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Level 3			
Breach of Licence	222	226	218
Breach of SOPO	15	21	17
Charged with SFO	32	12	13
Level 2			
Breach of Licence	1082	1305	1566
Breach of SOPO	55	81	72
Charged with SFO	47	50	69

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to *(a)* sexual assault referral centres, *(b)* independent advisory services for sexual violence and *(c)* independent advisory services for domestic violence in each of the next three financial years. [194277]

Mr. Coaker: The provision of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) will continue to be expanded. The new Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February, details the Government's commitment to supporting the roll out of SARCs over the next three years to ensure that there is a SARC within each police force area. Details of funding amounts for the next three financial years are yet to be finalised.

For 2008-09, the Government have committed £760,000 to continue to fund the 38 Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) pilots. This will be the third and final year of funding the pilots, which have been extended to accommodate the evaluation which is due to report this summer.

The Ministry of Justice has committed £3 million per year for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers for the three-year period from 2007-08 to 2009-10.

The Tackling Violence Action Plan also commits the Government to supporting over the next three years all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in offering independent advisory services to victims of sexual and domestic violence and, where appropriate, other forms of violence where victims are particularly vulnerable. Details of this funding are yet to be finalised.

Vandalism: Buses

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made by the Metropolitan Police's Transport Operational Command Unit's Operation Bus Tag in each year since its inception, broken down by the *(a)* bus route and *(b)* borough where the arrest took place. [194285]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents in *(a)* Stroud constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire were on the national sex offenders register at the most recent date for which figures are available. [193222]

Mr. Coaker: Data on registered sexual offenders are collated geographically by police force area and broken down to basic command unit (BCU) area. The data are published in local Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, which are available in the House Libraries and online at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The Stroud constituency is not coterminous with any BCU area, but is covered by the data relating to the Stroud and Cotswolds BCU in Gloucestershire.

As of 31 March 2007, there were 76 registered sex offenders in Stroud and Cotswolds and 311 in Gloucestershire.

Written Questions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 181925, on prisoners: Muslims, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 23rd January 2008. [193697]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the right hon. Member's question on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1099W.

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Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 20 March 2008

SCOTLAND

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191074]

David Cairns: None.

TREASURY

Banking Services

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to financial institutions on *(a)* the level of identification required in order to open a bank account and *(b)* access to banking services for those who do not possess standard forms of identification. [195225]

Angela Eagle: Under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 customers opening a bank account must satisfy the relevant financial institution as to their identity. Financial institutions are also required to maintain appropriate records and monitor accounts.

The regulations do not prescribe that customers must produce particular documents such as a driving license or passport.

Guidance from the Joint Money Laundering Steering Group provides advice on the identification and verification requirements that financial institutions must apply. That guidance was updated in 2007, and was approved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is available at:

http://www.jmlsg.org.uk/bba/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=749

That guidance sets out the standard evidence that private individuals might usually provide. It also addresses the particular situation of those at risk of financial exclusion where the usual evidence may not be available. In these cases "non-standard" evidence can be accepted.

The guidance specifically discourages financial institutions from declining to open an account because "non-standard" evidence is produced.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on departmental intranet, how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from departmental IP addresses. [195345]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects the European Commission to approve Budget 2006 measures relating to research and development tax credits; what recent discussions his Department has had with the Commission and EU counterparts on the measures; and if he will make a statement; [195154]

(2) what consideration has been given to the retrospective application of Budget 2006 measures relating to research and development tax credits once EC approval has been granted; what estimate has been made of the number of companies who will be included as a consequence of an increase in the SME headcount as it relates to the 2006 measures; what estimate has been made of the costs involved in applying the changes retrospectively; and if he will make a statement. [195337]

Angela Eagle: Since the announcement of the extension to mid-sized companies in Budget 2006, the Government announced further changes to the small and medium-sized (SME) Research and Development (R and D) tax credit and the Vaccines Research Relief (VRR) in Budget 2007, which were added to the notification of the change of the aids. The European Commission (EC) has also introduced a new framework for Research, Development and Innovation (R and D and I) State aids.

So that the previous changes meet the requirements of the EC's new R and D and I framework, and hence gain State aid approval, Budget 2008 announced changes to the eligibility criteria for claiming the SME R and D tax credit and VRR.

Legislation included in Finance Act 2007 made provision for the doubling of the SME size criteria from a date not earlier than 1 April 2007. Estimates at that time suggested that around 100 to 200 companies would benefit at a cost of around £40 million a year.

As a result of ongoing discussions and the Budget 2008 changes, the Government hope to receive approval of the changes announced in Budget 2006 and 2007 shortly. Once approval is received, the Government will make an announcement about the date from which these three changes will take effect.

Suicide

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of deaths from suicide in each of the last five years were *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and what proportion of deaths fell into each age decile. [195845]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of deaths from suicide in each of the last five years were (a) male and (b) female; and what proportion of deaths fell in each age decile.

Table 1 below, contains the number and proportion of suicides by sex, in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available. Tables 2 and 3 show, respectively, the number and proportions of suicides in ten-year age groups.

As there were only 18 suicides in this five-year period of children aged under 15, these deaths are not included in the tables below.

Table 1: Number and proportion of deaths from suicide[1] and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[2], by sex, people aged 15 and over, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[3]

	Males		*Females*	
	Number of deaths	*Percentage*	*Number of deaths*	*Percentage*
2002	3,533	74	1,218	26
2003	3,580	75	1,216	25
2004	3,576	73	1,295	27
2005	3,481	74	1,221	26
2006	3,380	75	1,124	25

Table 2: Number of deaths from suicide[1] and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[2], by age group, people aged 15 and over, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[3]

	15-24	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65-74*	*75-84*	*85 and over*	*15 and over*
2002	475	1,009	1,104	852	563	364	254	130	4,751
2003	492	954	1,141	847	598	347	302	115	4,796
2004	476	896	1,151	889	608	396	315	140	4,871
2005	445	830	1,131	930	633	338	260	135	4,702
2006	399	748	1,066	893	692	340	256	110	4,504

Table 3: Proportion of deaths from suicide[1] and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[2], people aged 15 and over, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[3]

Percentage

	15-24	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65-74*	*75-84*	*85 and over*	*15 and over*
2002	10	21	23	18	12	8	5	3	100
2003	10	20	24	18	13	7	6	2	100
2004	10	18	24	18	13	8	7	3	100
2005	10	18	24	20	14	7	6	3	100
2006	9	17	24	20	15	8	6	2	100

[1] The cause of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84.

[2] In England and Wales, it has been customary to assume that most injuries and poisonings of undetermined intent, in those aged 15 and over, are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. ONS therefore includes in its suicide statistics both those deaths from intentional self-harm, and those from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent. The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the coroner's verdict was pending.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 131W, on welfare tax credits, how many households *(a)* were owed tax credit payments which were delayed for more than four weeks and *(b)* owed tax credit repayments which they delayed repaying for more than four weeks. [195576]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the tax credit entitlement is for households earning *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £15,000 and *(c)* £20,000 with (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three children for (A) a two parent, single earner household, (B) a two parent, double earner household and (C) a single parent working household. [195972]

Angela Eagle: For information on 2007-08 child and working tax credit entitlements for families with at least one adult working 30 hours or more a week, and with one, two or three children, I refer the right hon. Member to the HMRC leaflet WTC2. This can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-leaflets.htm

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library copies of the accounts of CDC subsidiary companies. [195026]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: CDC had 79 subsidiary companies at 31 December 2007, registered throughout its target markets. Where they are required to do so by their relevant regulatory authorities, these subsidiary companies file their accounts in those countries and with those authorities. Accounts are therefore not available from CDC, but from the regulatory authorities in the countries in question.

CDC: Tax Havens

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the alleged use of tax havens by *(a)* CDC and its subsidiaries and *(b)* Actis and its subsidiaries; what assessment he has made of these reports; and if he will make a statement. [195027]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The former Secretary of State received advice about the tax position of Globeleq, CDC's energy subsidiary, when it was established in 2002. He was advised by the Department for International Development and CDC's financial advisers that an onshore structure would not have attracted investors. Bermuda was chosen because its corporate law is similar to the UK's and a Bermudan domicile may have facilitated subsequent listing of Globeleq on a US exchange. This advice was considered and accepted.

I have not received any specific reports regarding alleged use of tax havens.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's staff handbook. [195584]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's staff handbook has been replaced by a new web-based system available to all DFID staff on the Department's intranet. It is not available in hard copy because of the practical difficulties of keeping the information up to date.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial contribution his Department made to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund to support the work of Quartet Special Envoy, James Wolfensohn, in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [195253]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) support to Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn began in 2005. DFID provided £70,000 to fund an Aid Management Specialist. A further £28,000 for that position was provided in 2006. In addition, DFID seconded a member of its own staff to the team from June 2005 to early 2006.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to assist aid organisations with the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. [195361]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Sudan. Since April 2004 we have given over £158 million to aid agencies delivering vital assistance to those in need in Darfur.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress the Government has made in assisting UNAMID in managing the financial aspects of providing aid to the people of Darfur. [195362]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are supporting the efforts of the UN and African Union to deploy the UNAMID peacekeeping force in full in Darfur, including through the training and equipping of African troop-contributing countries. UNAMID co-ordinates closely with the UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations in Darfur to protect civilians and enable provision of aid in the region, and recently escorted non-governmental humanitarian organisations to deliver aid following fighting in West Darfur.

The UK has provided £158 million in humanitarian support to Darfur since 2004. My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for International Development and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a joint statement on 27 February, reiterated that we will continue to work closely with the UN and others in providing humanitarian assistance to Darfur.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent in planning and consulting on alcohol disorder zones. [187292]

Jacqui Smith: The planning and consultation work in respect of Alcohol Disorder Zones includes developing the original policy, taking forward legislation through Parliament (the provisions are now set out in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) and more recently developing the regulations and accompanying guidance.

This work has been undertaken by a small number of officials who have worked on this policy area, in addition to other duties. It is not possible to quantify the cost or the time that has been spent working and consulting on this policy area.

Alcoholic Drinks: Arrests

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation has been carried out of the alcohol arrest referral pilots announced in October 2007. [193577]

Jacqui Smith: No evaluation has been carried out at this stage. However interim findings about re-offending will be available by December 2008, while a final report into re-offending will be available by summer 2009.

We hope to use the information gathered from the pilots to establish good practice, including what works for different cultural groups and different genders, and to identify the benefits to local areas of prioritising existing resources in their own alcohol referral schemes.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) region and (ii) offence committed. [181804]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested covering offences of (a) Drunkenness, (b) Drunkenness with aggravation, (c) Offences against the licensing acts, (d) other offences against intoxicating liquor laws, (e) selected motoring offences is provided in the following table.

With the exception of these offences, it is not possible to separately identify whether prosecutions for other offences were alcohol related from the data reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected alcohol related offences, by offence class and region, England and Wales 2002-06[1, 2, 3]

		Prosecuted					*Guilty*				
	Offence class and region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
140	*Drunkenness, simple*[4]										
	North East	115	101	107	117	137	106	88	94	103	110
	North West	300	174	123	138	138	262	149	106	121	121
	Yorkshire and Humberside	274	271	210	159	176	202	222	166	124	134
	East Midlands	121	88	74	43	37	107	78	64	36	29
	West Midlands	131	147	170	211	308	109	123	132	170	253
	East of England	286	327	272	210	169	264	293	242	191	153
	London	262	251	195	151	134	228	210	162	124	114
	South East	603	563	480	343	306	541	486	418	306	282
	South West	435	382	326	288	266	382	350	290	261	236
	Wales	340	336	294	272	172	309	300	274	255	150
	England and Wales	2,867	2,640	2,251	1,932	1,843	2,510	2,299	1,948	1,691	1,582
141	*Drunkenness, with aggravation*[5]										
	North East	4,785	5,292	5,002	5,149	4,756	4,022	4,553	4,437	4,740	4,437
	North West	6,564	6,420	3,799	2,036	1,991	5,249	5,174	3,130	1,741	1,664
	Yorkshire and Humberside	4,040	4,508	2,266	1,625	2,305	2,240	2,670	1,625	1,264	1,743
	East Midlands	1,459	1,535	1,154	570	608	1,141	1,233	960	464	511
	West Midlands	1,317	1,246	1,382	1,158	1,452	1,061	1,029	1,128	980	1,242
	East of England	1,784	1,620	1,319	981	814	1,539	1,434	1,138	865	731
	London	2,577	2,586	1,284	1,010	1,216	2,103	2,141	1,055	847	1,005
	South East	4,259	4,439	3,392	1,812	1,439	3,369	3,661	2,791	1,538	1,260
	South West	2,350	2,270	1,472	913	922	2,017	1,998	1,286	760	769
	Wales	1,931	1,719	1,834	1,385	905	1,647	1,505	1,635	1,178	790
	England and Wales	31,066	31,635	22,904	16,639	16,408	24,388	25,398	19,185	14,377	14,152
142	*Offences by licenced person, etc*[6]										
	North East	17	50	72	98	52	13	38	51	69	30
	North West	130	237	264	251	180	90	158	182	189	111
	Yorkshire and Humberside	25	23	67	49	28	18	12	49	29	17
	East Midlands	17	83	43	72	71	14	52	25	34	41
	West Midlands	22	72	100	130	54	14	62	84	103	48
	East of England	12	28	41	43	70	9	15	20	32	56
	London	27	137	182	276	184	17	89	152	223	141
	South East	21	33	72	63	68	11	23	40	37	32
	South West	9	26	45	99	34	6	18	21	40	16
	Wales	43	53	99	96	92	28	36	59	71	74
	England and Wales	323	742	985	1,177	833	220	503	683	827	566
143	*Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws*[7]										
	North East	24	23	25	30	47	16	17	17	24	34
	North West	32	46	54	44	157	23	29	43	32	125
	Yorkshire and Humberside	9	11	11	10	109	5	8	10	8	46
	East Midlands	15	10	18	14	72	12	5	6	8	51
	West Midlands	23	30	22	14	95	12	19	14	8	71
	East of England	11	8	20	12	91	8	6	15	9	65
	London	53	54	32	40	159	41	38	21	29	118
	South East	14	13	14	26	79	8	10	10	18	50
	South West	3	9	13	23	32	2	4	8	18	20
	Wales	21	21	39	27	62	11	13	19	23	44

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected alcohol related offences, by offence class and region, England and Wales 2002-06[1, 2, 3]

		Prosecuted					Guilty				
	Offence class and region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	England and Wales	205	225	248	240	903	138	149	163	177	624
	Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs[8]										
406	North East	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	North West	5	2	2	4	6	10	5	6	7	9
	Yorkshire and Humberside	6	2	5	6	5	6	5	7	10	7
	East Midlands	6	8	3	7	10	4	9	12	10	4
	West Midlands	5	5	5	9	9	5	6	6	8	11
	East of England	10	5	7	4	8	11	7	7	5	8
	London	1	3	4	2	2	3	4	8	6	1
	South East	9	10	10	11	11	14	9	7	11	12
	South West	5	5	6	7	4	7	7	6	5	8
	Wales	2	2	—	2	5	4	6	1	2	3
	England and Wales	52	44	43	54	62	66	60	62	66	65
803	*Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs*[9]										
	North East	4,323	4,552	4,665	4,377	4,275	4,032	4,177	4,366	4,138	4,069
	North West	11,676	12,048	12,530	12,060	12,043	10,923	11,327	11,822	11,425	11,414
	Yorkshire and Humberside	7,703	8,107	8,323	8,492	7,923	7,157	7,555	7,862	8,020	7,539
	East Midlands	5,329	6,523	6,949	6,631	6,677	5,005	6,138	6,621	6,216	6,330
	West Midlands	8,829	9,091	9,463	9,640	9,625	8,276	8,566	8,886	9,137	9,130
	East of England	8,264	8,709	9,122	8,672	9,061	7,800	8,178	8,605	8,234	8,679
	London	13,418	12,945	13,258	13,080	13,087	12,066	11,613	12,040	11,925	12,181
	South East	14,684	13,921	13,929	13,137	12,583	13,726	13,040	13,122	12,458	11,962
	South West	7,637	8,194	8,097	7,869	7,527	7,206	7,697	7,662	7,452	7,106
	Wales	5,592	5,913	5,986	5,904	5,882	5,242	5,491	5,611	5,535	5,565
	England and Wales	87,455	90,003	92,322	89,862	88,683	81,433	83,782	86,597	84,540	83,975

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates' court took place in the proceeding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year or for a different offence.

[4] Includes offences of being found drunk in a highway or public place, drunk in a vehicle or drunk white entering a designated sports event.

[5] Includes offences of being guilty white drunk of disorderly behaviour, drunk with a loaded firearm and refusing to leave licensed premises when requested.

[6] Offences by license holders only. Includes offences of the illegal sale of alcohol and failure to follow licensing regulations.

[7] Offences by non-license holders: Includes offences of falsely claiming to be a licensee and illegally supplying alcohol to children.

[8] Offence cannot separately identify whether drink or drugs specifically were involved.

[9] Offence covers summary offences of driving eta after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Alcoholic Drinks: Enforcement

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people *(a)* were proceeded against for, *(b)* were convicted of and *(c)* received a level 2 fine for the offence of refusing to surrender alcohol in a designated public place in each of the last three years; [193588]

(2) how many people *(a)* were proceeded against for, *(b)* were convicted of and *(c)* received a level 2 fine for the offence of not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each of the last three years. [193589]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* Refusing to surrender alcohol in a designated public place and not obeying an instruction to stop drinking both come within the terms of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12(2)(a), (2), and (4). On this basis, the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and given a level 2 fine (maximum given is £500) for the offence of 'failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place' in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 (latest available) can be viewed in the following tables.

The prosecution statistics and PND offence of 'failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place', section 12 of the CJPA 2001, includes the offences of failure to surrender alcohol to a constable (section 12(2) of the CJPA) and failure to comply with an instruction not to consume alcohol in a designated public place (section 12(4). The figures in both PQs are therefore the same.

In addition, under the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme, fixed penalty notices of £50 may be issued by the police for the offence of consumption of alcohol in a designated public place. The number of PNDs issued for the offence in England and Wales was 485 in 2004, 712 in 2005, and 1,061 in 2006.

Court proceedings and penalty notice for disorder data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons given a level 2 fine for the offence 'failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place'[1] in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[2, 3]

Value of fine	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
up to and including £25	24	13	12
over £25 and up to £50	36	29	38
over £50 and up to £100	16	19	8
over £100 and up to £150	1	1	1
over £150 and up to £200	1	0	0
over £200 and up to £250	0	1	0
over £250	0	0	0
Total	78	63	59

[1] Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12(2)(a) and (4).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:
Court proceedings data held by RDS
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence 'failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place'[1] in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2004	122	96
2005	101	76
2006	101	73

[1] Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12(2)(a) and (4).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be applied in determining whether a drug addiction treatment is an effective treatment for the purposes of assessing the Government's public service agreement target 25. [191380]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Indicator 1 within PSA 25, states "reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs" measures the percentage change in the number of drug users using crack and/or opiates recorded as being in effective treatment.

For the purpose of assessment against this measure, effective treatment is defined as:

> "discharged from the treatment system 12 weeks or more after triage; or that remain in treatment 12 weeks after triage; or that were discharge in less than 12 weeks in a care planned way".

Evidence shows that staying in treatment for 12 weeks has a lasting positive impact and is therefore a measure of successful treatment.

Progress will be assessed annually, on the basis of a financial year, against the baseline year 2007-08.

Firearms: Registration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the annual cost to public authorities of firearm registration and *(b)* the annual income from registration charges in each of the last five years. [193965]

Jacqui Smith: The cost to the police of administering the provisions of the Firearms Acts is not recorded centrally. We are however working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to develop means of identifying expenditure which relates specifically to the grant of licences for which a charge may be levied. Estimated annual income for the last five years for which information is available on the number of certificates issued is as follows:

	£ million
2001	9.6
2002-03	8.0
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	4.3
2005-06	8.8

Foreign Workers: Vetting

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Government Departments that employ foreign nationals request the equivalent of a Criminal Records Bureau check from that person's country of origin. [189484]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

All prospective employees, including foreign nationals, in Government Departments are required to make a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions. As many countries do not offer a criminal records service the Cabinet Office advises departments to ask applicants to produce verifiable police certificates where these are available or other references of good conduct in respect of overseas residence.

Hunting: Dogs

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to enforce compliance with the ban on hunting with dogs; and what progress has been made on improving the detection of illegal hunting. [191318]

Mr. Coaker: Police have stated their commitment to enforcing the Hunting Act. The Government continues to meet with interested stakeholders and to work closely with the police, through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to identify what more can be done to ensure the Hunting Act is effectively and appropriately enforced and to improve detection of illegal hunting.

The Association of Chief Police Officers have conducted a survey of local police forces' response to enforcement of the Hunting Act which will inform practical best-practice guidance. The Government are also working with ACPO on ways to raise awareness of issues surrounding enforcement of the Hunting Act across the police service, and to communicate the importance of visible enforcement to community policing in rural areas and to the maintenance of public order.

We are also working closely with the Attorney General about what more can be done to secure prosecutions where evidence has been presented of Hunting Act offences being committed. The Attorney-General in turn has agreed to raise the issue of the burden of proof in hunting cases with the Director of Public Prosecutions, and to engage with local Crown Prosecution Service leads to better understand and then communicate, the evidence needed to bring forward successful prosecutions.

26 individuals have now been convicted of offences under the hunting Act 2004 which does show that the legislation is enforceable when the evidence presents itself.

Internet: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost of cyber-crime to the UK economy in the next 12 months. [192830]

Jacqui Smith: No estimate has been made.

The Government works very closely with law enforcement, industry and financial institutions in order to combat crimes committed over the internet, including through initiatives such as GetSafeOnline.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were arrested for offences related to alcohol consumption in North Belfast District Command Unit in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex.[1] [194758]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows a breakdown, by gender, of persons accused of various offences considered to relate to alcohol consumption within North Belfast District Command Unit ('A' district) in each of the last five years.

	Male	*Female*
2007 - to date	567	97
2006-07	301	42
2005-06	389	62
2004-05	419	80
200-04	481	94

The PSNI were unable to provide a breakdown by age within the time constraint. Officials have requested this information and I will write to the hon. Gentleman once it is received.

Health Services: Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the healthcare of those held in prison in Northern Ireland will become the responsibility of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. [194443]

Paul Goggins: Following agreement with DHSSPS I can confirm that responsibility will transfer on 1 April 2008.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Governance of Britain White Paper

23. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1121, on the Governance of Britain White Paper, what the outcome of the national deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme was; and if she will make a statement. [195467]

Ms Harman: The national deliberative forum was one part of the consultation that took place on the draft legislative programme last year. I was pleased to be able to attend the event and Members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons were also invited to attend. The outcomes from the deliberative forum were summarised in—"Taking a Wider View"—published in November.

Parliamentary Questions

32. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the completeness of information given in Answers to Parliamentary Questions. [195476]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 7MC.]*

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Leader of the House how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of her staff and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194986]

Helen Goodman: None.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

"Women Not for Sale"

19. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the progress made by the Newspaper Society in revising its guidance to publishers to reflect concerns about human trafficking for sexual exploitation in response to the Government's "Women Not For Sale" initiative; and if she will make a statement. [195491]

Barbara Follett: I welcome the revised guidance from the Newspaper Society but, as this only came out last month, it is a little early to assess progress. But there are promising signs and the guidance is already helping to ensure that the society's members do not unwittingly advertise brothels in which trafficked women are being exploited.

Domestic Violence

20. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to provide long-term support to women without secure immigration status who are victims of domestic violence. [195492]

Barbara Follett: We are aware of the acute problems faced by this group of women. We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence, with indefinite leave to remain in the UK, may be able to have their housing and living costs met.

The Border and Immigration Agency are working to ensure that when domestic violence applications are submitted an assessment of destitution is made, which may lead to the application fee being waived.

Flexible Working

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the availability of flexible working arrangements for mothers of children under 18; and if she will make a statement. [195493]

Barbara Follett: The right to request flexible working has been a great success. Nine out of 10 employers offer flexible working practices, and over seven in 10 mothers with children under 18 are working flexibly. In November 2007, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will extend further the right to flexible working, to parents of older children.

I refer to our priorities for the Minister for Women (July 2007) for a statement on our commitment to flexible working policies.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on progress in ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [195494]

Barbara Follett: My hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire) is Minister with responsibility for disabled people and she signed the convention on behalf of the UK Government on 30 March 2007—the first day of its opening—and I understand that the aim is to ratify by the end of the year.

Age: Discrimination

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2683W, on age: discrimination, if she will place copies of the two reviews and studies in the Library. [194225]

Barbara Follett: Precise arrangements for publication have not yet been made as the research has not yet been completed. The reports will be made publicly available in due course.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress the Government Equalities Office has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191476]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was set up as a new Department on 12 October 2007, after the results of the 2007 comprehensive spending review were published in Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm 7227).

The GEO is currently examining its funding needs and the best use of resources as part of its annual business planning round.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government plans to take to assist women who have no recourse to public funds who have been subject to domestic violence. [195488]

Barbara Follett: We are aware of the acute problems faced by women with no recourse to public funds and living in fear of violence.

We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with indefinite leave to remain, may be able to have their housing and living costs met.

Females: Crimes of Violence

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps she has taken to combat violence against women. [195490]

Barbara Follett: The Government have recently announced plans to:

Extend the network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres to 36 by the end of this year.

Double the number of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts to 128 by 2011 and roll out Multi-Area Risk Assessment Conferences to all areas.

Women: Sport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with other Government departments on the funding for women's sport. [193614]

Barbara Follett: Since the establishment of the Government Equalities office, the Ministers for Women and Equality have not been involved in discussions with other Government Departments on the funding for Women's sport.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Bats

9. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate he has made of the damage caused to historic churches by bats. [195466]

Sir Stuart Bell: As I told the House on 29 January 2007, such figures are not held centrally but bat roosts are a significant problem in a number of churches, especially in rural areas. Many roosts are accommodated successfully but the potential for damage to important church contents is high.

Women Bishops

David Taylor: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations the Church Commissioners have received on the ordination of women as bishops. [195464]

Sir Stuart Bell: I have been asked several questions about the matter on the floor of this House. Moreover, my hon. Friend will know that the matter will be discussed in General Synod, hopefully this July.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Campaign Spending Between Elections

8. **Martin Linton:** To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what powers the Electoral Commission has to limit campaign spending before an election has been called. [195465]

Peter Viggers: Expenditure by both parties and candidates is subject to limits which apply during specified pre-election periods. Both the limits and the specified periods are set by Parliament, and the Commission has no powers to vary them.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Inquests

13. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many applications she has made under section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988 for the re-opening or re-holding of an inquest; and if she will make a statement. [195483]

The Solicitor-General: Under section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988 application may be made by or under the authority of the Attorney-General to the High Court for an order that an inquest or another inquest may be held.

By virtue of s.1 of the Law Officers Act 1997 the Solicitor-General may also apply or give authority for application to be made.

In 2007 the Law Officers did not make any such applications. In 2007 the Attorney-General's Office was notified of 15 possible requests that application be made or for authority to make such an application. Authority was given in cases. The remainder were either withdrawn, refused or remain ongoing.

Crown Prosecution Service

14. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the Crown Prosecution Service's response to information on crime scene profiles received from the Dutch authorities in January 2007. [195484]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the House on 20 March 2008.

Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

John Robertson: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made in improving prosecution rates in domestic violence cases. [195482]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is strongly committed to the effective prosecution of domestic violence. The successful prosecution rate in England and Wales has increased from 59.7 per cent. in 2005-06 to 69.3 per cent. in the third quarter of 2007-08. The CPS will continue to take action to seek further improvements in the prosecution rate for domestic violence cases.

Rape: Prosecutions

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the rates of successful prosecution for rape; and if she will make a statement. [195478]

The Solicitor-General: I am satisfied that the ongoing efforts and current initiatives of the Criminal Justice Agencies (CJA) should lead to more successful prosecutions. In addition I have proposed changes concerning the way that victims' visually recorded evidence and victims' disclosure to third parties can be used at trial. I am also examining ways to inform juries about victims' psychological responses.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Government is taking to improve prosecution rates for rape. [195480]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) works with the police to build strong cases and empowers specialist support services to enable victims to provide best evidence. A cross-Government group is addressing local variations in performance and we are pursuing further measures to increase the range of evidence admissible in rape prosecutions.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Public Appointments

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the mandate is of the new UN special representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of how this differs from *(a)* the mandate which Lord Ashdown was prepared to accept and *(b)* the mandate of Tom Koenigs of Germany, whom the new special representative is replacing; and if he will make a statement. [195638]

Dr. Howells: The mandate of the special representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan, as head of the UN Assistance Mission, is set out in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council—most recently UN Security Council Resolution 1746 (2007). The Security Council will shortly adopt a new resolution extending the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's mandate for a further 12 months. There is broad consensus that the new resolution should put particular emphasis on the UN's crucial role in co-ordinating the overall international effort in Afghanistan.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide were offset by his Department for air travel through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership programme in 2006-07; and at what cost. [195727]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be submitting figures for air travel in 2006-07 to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership programme in April 2008 to enable them to calculate the equivalent tonnes of carbon that we need to offset.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 2 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 225W, on Diego Garcia, on what date the British Representative on Diego Garcia most recently confirmed that there were no detainees or prison facilities associated with rendition on Diego Garcia. [190947]

David Miliband: The British Representative on Diego Garcia was present at the 2007 UK/US political-military talks, which took place in Washington on 12-13 September 2007, when the US assurances were last given.

Serbia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on the necessary conditions for the conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [191985]

David Miliband: The Government believes that Serbia's progress towards the EU must uphold the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) conditionality and ensure this remains embedded in the accession process. We want Serbia also to be playing a constructive regional role.

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions of June 2007 recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) would depend on Serbia's full co-operation with ICTY.

This issue is regularly discussed within the EU. The Government would be ready—in the interests of sending a clear signal of EU commitment to Serbia's European future—to consider signature of an SAA if there were firm agreement that ICTY conditionality were to remain embedded in the accession process and to apply at the next relevant stage.

Sudan: Sanctions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government has had with members of the EU on the implementation of sanctions on the Sudanese Government. [195363]

Meg Munn: The conclusions of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council of 28 January, which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended, re-stated that any party failing to engage constructively in the Darfur peace process would be considered an obstacle to peace and the EU would promote further measures against it, notably in the UN framework.

The prospect of further UN sanctions and persuasion by the UN Secretary-General among others, helped bring the Government of Sudan to accept the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur peacekeeping force in 2007. We continue to discuss the possibility of further sanctions with other members of the UN Security Council as one of a range of measures to resolve the crisis in Darfur.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the cycle to work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [192370]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform loans bikes to its staff as a tax-free benefit, through a salary-sacrifice Cycle to Work scheme.

Staff also have access to salary advances to purchase bicycles.

Each of the Department's non-departmental public bodies has the authority to determine their own Cycle to Work schemes. Information regarding the incentives available to their staff is held by the bodies themselves. It is not held centrally.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which agencies of his Department maintain offices overseas; in which country each office is maintained; how many staff were based in each such office in each of the last five years; and what the cost of each office was in each year. [185487]

Mr. McFadden: The following tables show RDA's inward investment offices overseas, which include details on staff and cost of each office for the last five years.

The executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) do not maintain offices overseas.

	AWM[2]		*EEDA*[1]		*EMDA*[2]		*LDA*		*NWDAs*	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2002-03										
USA	—	—	3	238	—	—	—	—	10	395
Australia	[4]—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
India	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	2	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	125
Benelux	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	[4]—	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	2	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	[4]—	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	ONE[3]		*SEEDA*		*SWRDA*		*YF*[3]	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2002-03								
USA	10	358	1	62	4	449	10	329
Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	2.5	213	2	57	3	265	—	—
Benelux	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	2	59	—	—	—	—	—	—
Korea	1	76	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	1	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	AWM[2]		EEDA[1]		EMDA[2]		LDA		NWDAs	
	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000
2003-04										
USA	7	417	3	226	7	417	—	—	10	395
Australia	[4]—	70	—	—	[4]—	62	—	—	—	—
India	[4]—	50	—	—	[4]—	66	—	—	—	—
Japan	2	114	—	—	[4]—	133	—	—	4	195
Benelux	1	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	1	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	80	—	—	[4]—	70	—	—	—	—
Sweden	2	84	—	—	[4]—	72	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	[4]—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	[4]—	85	—	—	—	—

	ONE[3]		SEEDA		SWRDA		YF[3]	
	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000
2003-04								
USA	10	385	2	130	4	410	10	412
Australia	—	—	1	47	—	—	—	—
India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	2.5	185	2	84	3	411	—	—
Benelux	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	[4]—	101	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	2	65	1	24	—	—	—	—
Korea	1	73	1	35	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	1	51	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	AWM[2]		EEDA[1]		EMDA[2]		LDA		NWDAs	
	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000
2004-05										
USA	3.5	368	4	200	3.5	368	—	—	12	395
Australia	[4]—	58	—	—	[4]—	60	—	—	[4]—	45
India	[4]—	78	—	—	[4]—	66	—	—	—	—
Japan	2	119	—	—	—	112	—	—	4	195
Benelux	1	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	1	109	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	80	—	—	[4]—	73	—	—	—	—
Sweden	2	85	—	—	[4]—	72	—	—	—	—
Canada	1	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	71	—	—	—	—

	ONE[3]		SEEDA		SWRDA		YF[3]	
	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000	Staff	£000
2004-05								
USA	12	370	2	145	3	149	12	352
Australia	[4]—	55	1	50	[4]—	67	[4]—	45
India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	4	203	2	73	3	340	4	182

	ONE[3]		SEEDA		SWRDA		YF[3]	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
Benelux	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	[4]—	69	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	3	79	1	28	[4]—	50	[4]—	178
Korea	1	75	1	41	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	AWM[2]		EEDA[1]		EMDA[2]		LDA		NWDAs	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2005-06										
USA	3.5	337	4	180	3.5	337	—	—	12	395
Australia	[4]—	31	—	—	[4]—	45	—	—	[4]—	55
India	[4]—	64	—	—	[4]—	66	—	—	—	—
Japan	2	73	—	—	[4]—	114	—	—	4	195
Benelux	1	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	1	112	—	—	[4]—	60	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	81	—	—	[4]—	94	—	—	—	—
Sweden	2	86	—	—	[4]—	80	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	[4]—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	ONE[3]		SEEDA		SWRDA		YF[3]	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2005-06								
USA	12	364	2	155	[4]—	122	12	364
Australia	[4]—	55	1	50	[4]—	70	[4]—	55
India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	4	183	2	70	3	398	4	158
Benelux	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	1	27	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	3	98	1	28	[4]—	82	[4]—	29
Korea	1	75	1	50	—	—	—	—
Norway	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	AWM[2]		EEDA[1]		EMDA[2]		LDA		NWDAs	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2006-07										
USA	3	338	1	114	3	338	—	—	12	395
Australia	[4]—	38	—	—	[4]—	47	—	—	[4]—	78
India	[4]—	41	—	—	[4]—	36	—	—	—	—
Japan	2	76	—	—	[4]—	92	—	—	4	195
Benelux	1	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	1	114	—	—	[4]—	69	—	—	—	—
Germany	1	83	—	—	[4]—	87	—	—	—	—
Sweden	[4]—	128	—	—	[4]—	76	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	AWM[2]		EEDA[1]		EMDA[2]		LDA		NWDAs	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	261	—	—
Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	ONE[3]		SEEDA		SWRDA		YF[3]	
	Staff	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*	*Staff*	*£000*
2006-07								
USA	12	239	5	380	[4]—	131	12	239
Australia	[4]—	78	1	50	[4]—	69.5	[4]—	78
India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	4	227	1	57	4	213	4	168.5
Benelux	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	1	87	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	[4]—	89	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	3	135	1	38	[4]—	57	[4]—	77
Korea	1	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rest of Asia	—	—	—	—	[4]—	134	—	—

[1] EEDA contribute to the East of England partnership office in Jiangsu Province, China. Collaboration with Essex county council and China British Business Council. No staff employed by EEDA.

[2] AWM and EMDA jointly fund inward investment activity in USA, Japan, India, Australia, and Sweden as 'British Midlands'. Individual financial contributions are shown. Staff figures shown are the total number in that office.

[3] NWDA, ONE, and YF jointly fund inward investment activity in USA, Japan (from 2004-05), and Australia. Individual financial contributions are shown. Staff figures shown are the total number in that office.

[4] Where consultancy services are used, rather than staff paid for by the RDA.

Post Offices

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many of the Crown Post Offices currently operated by Post Office Ltd. that are not listed in the Post Office Network Consultation document as proposed for closure are franchised; [195666]

(2) whether new franchisees taking over Crown Post Offices have a legal obligation to maintain a post office function in the building in which they maintain a franchise; [195667]

(3) for what length of time the Post Office franchisees taking over Crown Post Offices have a legal obligation to maintain a post office function before renewal; [195668]

(4) how many of the Crown Post Offices operated by Post Office Ltd. were franchised in each year since 2002, broken down by local authority area. [195669]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which local authorities have expressed an interest in participating in a strategy to retain post offices in rural areas. [194884]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Local authorities interested in retaining post office service provision in their areas are contacting Post Office Ltd about this. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, its Managing Director, to reply direct to the hon. Member listing the local authorities which have expressed a serious interest in maintaining post office service provision at specific offices by means of local government funding.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Workers: Dogs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases of dogs attacking postmen have been reported in each of the last three years. [195330]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage economic regeneration in coastal resorts. [194258]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is the lead Government Department for the Regional Economic Performance Public Service Agreement. It also leads on sponsorship of the nine English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

The RDAs have an important role to play, with other partners, in helping coastal areas in their regions to achieve their full economic potential, as part of wider regional strategies to deliver sustainable growth. The South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) is setting up an RDA-led Coastal Areas Network, which will include local authorities and other regeneration practitioners from the public and private sector. BERR is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in supporting the Network. The Network is expected to hold its first meeting in June.

The work of the Network will feed into the economic development strategies which several RDAs are preparing for their own coastal areas to unlock their economic potential.

Last year, BERR held a policy seminar on coastal towns and is a member of the cross-Whitehall Coastal Towns Working Group.

Road Traffic: East of England

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, Question 193055, whether the East of England Regional Development Agency has consulted Essex County Council on the proposed study into the case of congestion in the East of England; and when the agency plans to make the details of the proposed study available to *(a)* Essex County Council and *(b)* other stakeholders. [195044]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Essex county council has been consulted on the proposed study, firstly through its membership and participation at meetings of the Regional Transport Forum and the East of England Directors of Environment and Transport (EEDET) Strategic Transport Sub-Group, and secondly through a study workshop for local authorities, at which an Essex county council representative was present.

Details of the study are already available to Essex county council and other stakeholders, and will continue to be so until the study completion in June 2008, at which point the final study report will be available to Essex county council and other stakeholders.

http://www.eeda.org.uk/press_pub_3880.asp

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Wastes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to restrict the periods during which slurry may be spread. [193736]

Mr. Woolas: We are currently considering responses to the recent consultation on how to implement the Nitrates Directive in England before making recommendations on how to proceed. A report presenting a summary of the consultation results will be published on the DEFRA website in spring 2008.

Birds: Game

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to regulate the practice of shooting birds for sport. [195248]

Joan Ruddock: Section 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (the 1981 Act) sets out the hunting seasons for species listed on schedule 2, part 1. Section 5 of the 1981 Act prohibits certain methods of killing or taking wild birds. Hunting seasons for game birds are contained in section 3 of the Game Act 1831.

Natural England can grant licences under section 16 of the 1981 Act to enable the hunting of species not listed on schedule 2, part 1. These are usually issued to enable falconers to hunt certain species.

Anyone shooting birds for sport must be in possession of a valid shotgun licence or firearms certificate.

Brofiscin Quarry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason Brabners Chaffee Street, Solicitors have been engaged by the Environment Agency in respect of Brofiscin Quarry. [195340]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency instructed Brabners Chaffe Street LLP, a firm of external solicitors, to act on its behalf in respect of statements made by Mr. Douglas Gowan regarding an employee of the Environment Agency.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his timetable is for the publication of remediation options at Brofiscin Quarry; and what the costs are of such options. [195338]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

In accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance, the Environment Agency is currently concluding its remediation options appraisal for Brofiscin quarry. Regulation 15 and schedule 3 of the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2001 prescribes the information required under section 78R Environmental Protection Act 1990 Act to be placed on a public register. The contaminated land regime does not state when that information should be added to the public register, however, the Environment Agency intends to place it on the public register as soon as reasonably practicable after it is generated.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his timetable is for the publication of a list of appropriate persons in respect of the ongoing pollution of surface and groundwater at Brofiscin. [195341]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency is still making its determination of 'Appropriate Persons' in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

Regulation 15 and schedule 3 of the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2001 prescribes the detail required under section 78R Environmental Protection Act 1990 Act to be placed on a public register. The contaminated land regime does not prescribe a timetable for completion of the investigation, nor does it state when details should be added to the public register. The Environment Agency intends to place the required information on the public register as soon as reasonably practicable after it is generated.

Eaga

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of the contracts between his Department and Eaga in the latest period for which figures are available. [194307]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, DEFRA has allocated approximately £350 million to the Warm Front Scheme managed by Eaga plc.

Endangered Species: Birds

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to protect endangered birds in the United Kingdom. [195250]

Joan Ruddock: All wild birds are protected in the UK under the EC directive on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds directive"), which is implemented in Great Britain by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Regulations 1994. Similar provisions are in place in Northern Ireland.

Species that are at risk from their international trade are also subject to controls under EU regulations that implement the convention on the international trade in endangered species (CITES). In accordance with Council Regulation 338/97, such species, notably birds of prey, require the issuance of permits or certificates before they can be commercially traded internationally. Such permits or certificates are issued dependent on a non-detriment finding assessment.

Flood Control

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which internal drainage boards he has met since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [193739]

Mr. Woolas: We are in regular contact with all stakeholders including internal drainage boards (IDBs), and we recognise and support the invaluable role that they play.

In November 2007, I met the Beverley and Holderness, Winestead, Preston, Skeffling, Keyingham, Ottringham, Thorngumbald, Market Weighton, and Lower Ouse IDBs as part of a visit to Hull.

In addition, I attended and spoke at the Association of Drainage Authorities Annual Conference in October 2007 to which all IDBs were invited.

Floods: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what internal drainage boards (IDBs) there are in the south west of England; what discussions are planned between IDBs, the Environment Agency and the South West Regional Development Agency on flooding; and if he will make a statement. [194840]

Mr. Woolas: There are six internal drainage boards (IDBs) in the south west region of the Environment Agency.

These are the West Mendip Drainage Board, Central Somerset Consortium of Drainage Boards (which includes the Upper Axe the Upper Brue), North Somerset (2005) Drainage Board, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium (which includes the Lower Axe, Lower Brue and Parrett), the Lower Severn Drainage Board and the Braunton Marsh Drainage Board.

The Environment Agency has regular and ongoing discussions with the IDB's on flooding matters, more recently regarding the impact of the floods of summer 2007.

The Environment Agency is working with the Regional Development Agency in partnership with local authorities on regeneration schemes. Where applicable the Environment Agency has involved the IDB's in discussions on strategic flood mitigation studies associated with these regeneration projects.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average contribution made by pensioners in *(a)* North Durham and *(b)* England to the cost of the package of insulation and heating improvements available under the Warm Front scheme was in the last two years. [194252]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2006 and 25 January 2008 of those pensioner households with an excess to pay, the average contribution made to the Warm Front Scheme for *(a)* North Durham was £459.74, and *(b)* England was £502.92.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems are in place to monitor value for money under the Warm Front scheme. [194253]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front is subject to twice yearly performance reviews by DEFRA's independent quality assessors to ensure that the scheme is providing value for money. These assessors also provide ad hoc reviews of individual elements of Warm Front operation, as required.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many small firms took part in the tendering process for the Warm Front scheme. [195792]

Mr. Woolas: The scheme manager received approximately 700 expressions of interest from potential Warm Front contractors.

These companies were not categorised by size, and we therefore do not hold figures for the number which could be classified as small businesses.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the turnover is of each firm involved in the WarmFront scheme. [195793]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not centrally hold information on financial turnover of firms working on Warm Front.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has allocated to Warm Front for each financial year between 2008 and 2011; what Warm Front's budget was for 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the number of vulnerable households that will have central heating installed as a result of the scheme in each year to 2011. [194945]

Mr. Woolas: The budget for the Warm Front Scheme for 2007-08 is approximately £350 million.

The scheme's budget for the 2008-2011 period is approximately £800 million, with the yearly breakdown yet to be finalised. It is therefore not possible to provide yearly estimates for the number of central heating systems installed.

However, over the entire three year period we anticipate Warm Front providing approximately 250,000 heating systems, although this will be dependent on the number of insulation measures delivered over this period.

Landfill: Liability

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency first knew of the open admission to shared liability at *(a)* Brosfiscin and *(b)* other Welsh landfill sites; and what steps he has taken as a result. [195193]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

In the context of its investigations pursuant to part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Environment Agency is unaware of any admissions of shared liability at Brofiscin or other Welsh landfill sites.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will monitor captive breeding claims of species removed from schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and if he will assess the resource implications of such monitoring for *(a)* devolved administrations and *(b)* agencies. [195043]

Joan Ruddock: No decision has been taken on which species will be removed from schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Any species removed from schedule 4 but included on Annex A of the EU convention on the international trade in endangered species (CITES) regulations will continue to be closely monitored by Animal Health and its scientific advisers (the Joint Nature Conservation Committee). This is not a devolved responsibility and Animal Health carries out this duty UK-wide. As this is already part of its normal duties it will have no additional resource implications.

For non-CITES species, Natural England will consider whether stringent sales controls are required. Natural England will also consider whether individual licences would be appropriate for species based on threats to their conservation status.

Planning Permission: Upchurch

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legal advice the Environment Agency has sought in the last week concerning activities at 4 Gun Field in Upchurch, Sittingbourne. [196029]

Joan Ruddock: Legal advice sought internally by the Environment Agency instigated an investigation into the nature of the materials and operations at 4 Gun Field Upchurch.

Plastic Bags: Landfill

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of plastic shopping bags sent to landfill in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [193336]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* No information is collected by DEFRA on the tonnage of individual products consigned to landfill.

River Severn: Floods

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in establishing the Wet Washland scheme to protect Shrewsbury and other towns on the River Severn from future flooding. [194680]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is currently working on a feasibility study for the River Severn Flood Risk Management scheme (which was formerly known as the Wet Washland scheme).

This will assess the technical, environmental and economic viability of a stand alone flood storage area immediately upstream of Shrewsbury and will combine with the proposed Shrewsbury North West Relief Road scheme. The study will be completed at the end of April 2008.

Smuggling: Wildlife

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to publish its Customs CITES seizures report for 2007; and if he will make a statement. [195223]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA will publish the HM Revenue and Customs seizures for 2007 on the UK CITES website by August 2008. HM Revenue and Customs also publish summary seizure data for the financial year in its departmental annual report, which is due to be published this spring.

Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average domestic water bill in England and Wales in cash terms, including sewerage charges, in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193896]

Mr. Woolas: The average household water bill including sewerage in 2007-08 is £312 (in 2007-08 prices).

The average household water bill including sewerage for 2008-09 will be £330 (in 2008-09 prices).

These figures include bills for both unmetered and metered household customers.

More information about average bills for 2008-09 is available on the Ofwat website.

Water: Meters

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provisions of the Water Industry Act 1999 enable customers to request the installation of individual water meters in sheltered accommodation. [195721]

Mr. Woolas: There are no specific provisions in legislation for sheltered accommodation. Where a tenant of a property has a fixed term tenancy lasting longer than six months, or is an owner-occupier, and is directly liable for the charges related to their water supply to the relevant undertaker, they are able to request a meter be installed without charge. Companies can refuse to install a meter where it is not practicable or is unreasonably expensive to fit one.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the policy is of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* Downing street, on whether air flights should be made by standard class, business class or first class travel; [191116]

(2) what criteria are used to determine whether those undertaking air travel on behalf of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office are entitled to travel standard, business and first class. [191231]

Mr. Watson: For the purposes of this answer, the Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

Cabinet Office policy requires officials to use the most cost effective class of air travel appropriate to the business need which takes account of the level of work that needs to be done during the flight and the importance of minimising fatigue. Standard class should normally be used but where the circumstances are justified, including longer flights, officials may travel in a higher class. Seats may be up-graded to a higher class where this does not involve additional cost.

As part of a series of initiatives to reduce expenditure on travel, the policy is currently being reviewed.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether new guidance on information security has been issued to staff in his Department since 1 October 2007. [180413]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office takes security very seriously and constantly reviews, and monitors its high level procedures and processes to minimise risks to all its assets.

In December 2007 guidance was issued to staff regarding the implementation of additional procedures being introduced to protect the storage of data on removable media and on the use of laptops and other storage devices.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if the Cabinet Office will collate and publish a list for each Government department, executive agency and non-departmental public body, of which public authorities process personal data in processing centres directly or via contractors outside the European Economic Area. [181312]

Mr. Watson: The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European Economic Area by UK data controllers. Data controllers are responsible for ensuring they comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act with regard to the transfer of personal data to non-EEA countries. This means that the primary responsibility for putting in place and monitoring appropriate arrangements is on the individual department or other public body that acts as data controller.

Information on which public authorities process personal data in processing centres directly or via contractors outside the European Economic Area is not held by the Cabinet Office.

As part of cross-Government work on data handling, the Government have committed to put in place a programme to tighten procedures for any data stored outside the UK —written ministerial statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have voluntarily ceased employment, excluding redundancies, with the Prime Minister's Office in each month since May 1998. [189104]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The following table shows the number of staff that have voluntarily ceased employment with the Cabinet Office in each financial year since 1998-99.

	Total leavers[1]
1998-99	206
1999-2000	275
2000-01	329
2001-02	410
2002-03	487
2003-04	403
2004-05	372
2005-06	414
2006-07	411

[1] Excluding transfers due to machinery of government changes

Figures on total leavers include staff who have retired or resigned from the civil service, staff who have completed a fixed term appointment or a period of loan to the Cabinet Office or staff who have transferred permanently to another Government Department.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194974]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has had fewer than five claims for discrimination based on sex, race and sexual orientation in the last five years. Exact numbers cannot be provided to protect the confidentiality of individual(s) involved.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions since February 2004 Government senior information risk owners have identified areas where data held by Departments may become compromised. [186118]

Mr. Watson: Departments are responsible for their own data security measures in accordance with security policy as laid out in the Manual of Protective Security.

There is no obligation for Departments' senior risk information owner's to report the detail of potential compromises to the Cabinet Office.

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the objectives are of the Government Gateway Strategic Support programme. [191046]

Mr. Watson: The Government Gateway provides secure logon to Government services for nearly 13 million citizens and businesses and the secure handling of over 4.5 million transactions in 2007. The purpose of the Strategic Support programme was to contract for the next generation of IT managed services to support the continued growth and success of the Gateway. The procurement completed in September 2006 with the award of a five-year contract to Atos Origin.

Media Monitoring Unit: Manpower and Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much the Media Monitoring Unit cost in each of the last five years; [178948]

(2) how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* other staff worked in the Media Monitoring Unit in each of the last five years. [178949]

Mr. Watson: The costs and staffing levels of the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) are shown in the following table:

	Cost (£)	*Permanent staff (FTE)*	*Other staff (FTE)*
2002-03	715,925	n/a	5
2003-04	1,068,714	12	5
2004-05	1,065,382	13	5
2005-06	1,108,216	13	5
2006-07	1,277,441	14	5

No special advisers are employed by the MMU. However, a No. 10 special adviser did work for some of the time alongside the MMU until 2006-07.

Staffing levels and costs reflect the fact that the MMU is operational for 24 hours a day.

Staff numbers for 2002-03 are not available, because there was no analysis of staff number[illegible] management unit at that time.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of project silent night over the lifetime of the project. [193175]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Tony Blair, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 24 July 2002, *Official Report,* columns 1368-69W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget for works associated with Crown proposal 08/00696/1884 made under the Circular 1884 Procedure is; and on what date such works are expected to be completed. [193177]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Costs incurred on refurbishments and improvements to No. 10 Downing street will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

The Government are legally required to maintain the Downing Street complex to standards appropriate to its Grade 1/2 listed status in consultation with English Heritage. In addition to providing office accommodation the building also fulfils an important representational role. No significant refurbishment works have been undertaken at the Downing street complex since the large scale rebuilding works that took place between 1960 and 1963. As a result much of the infrastructure now needs to be renewed or upgraded. It has therefore been recommended that essential improvements are undertaken through ongoing annual maintenance works.

Public Participation: Incentives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, (1) what criteria were used to select the public participants in the deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme; [174873]

(2) in what manner the forum was advertised to the general public; [174880]

(3) which opinion polling organisations attended the event; [174876]

(4) who the speakers at the forum were. [174877]

Mr. Watson: The deliberative event on the draft legislative programme was organised by Ipsos MORI. The speakers at the forum were the Leader of the House of Commons and the organisers, who managed the recruitment process for people to attend and selected a group of people from all walks of life to be reflective of the population. The event was not advertised to the general public. No additional opinion polling organisations attended the event.

Public Service: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on commissioning public services from voluntary organisations. [195091]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 907, to the hon. Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2485W, on television, how many plasma television screens have been purchased in the last 24 months by *(a)* Downing Street and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. [195577]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is as follows: *(a)* Downing street purchased one plasma television screen and *(b)* the strategy unit purchased none.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the amount of money needed to bring all armed forces accommodation up to Grade 4 standard and above under Grade for Change classification. [168380]

Derek Twigg: All service families accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC), which is an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as size and closeness to amenities. In addition all SFA (excluding that in Germany) is also assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC), which results in the categorisation of the housing stock taking account of a number of factors including standards of health and safety, sanitary, energy and efficiency. There are standards within four SfCs and GfCs, 1 being the highest and 4 the lowest respectively.

Although no estimate has been made of the cost of bringing all accommodation up to each GfC, I can confirm that over the next decade, the Department will spend over £ 3 billion on upgrading and improving service accommodation, with priority given to addressing the lowest standard accommodation first. This includes the delivery of some further 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces to G1fC standard by 2013 and the upgrading of a minimum of 600 SFA properties to S1fC this year, 600 next year and 800 in each year thereafter.

Defence Equipment and Support

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on phase four of the merger to establish Defence Equipment and Support; how the merger plans have changed since they were first made; and what representations on the merger he has received from external stakeholders. [195104]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Phase four of the merger identified how to optimise DE and S following its establishment in April 2007. As intended, its recently published business strategy (2008-2012) and blueprint set out the strategic direction and priorities for DE and S and how it will look and operate by around 2012. Both documents are available via the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DES/OurPublications/DefenceEquipmentAndSupportBusinessStrategy200812.htm

DE and S is now developing detailed plans to deliver the blueprint under a single coherent change programme called PACE—Performance, Agility, Confidence and Efficiency, which is aimed at delivering increased effectiveness in support to the armed forces.

A range of stakeholders across the Department and in industry have been consulted in taking these plans forward.

Defence Equipment and Support: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to training programmes for his Department's staff to reflect the establishment of Defence Equipment and Support. [195103]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The upskilling element of the Defence Acquisition Change Programme was introduced last year to improve the Department's ability to acquire military capability by upskilling staff across the acquisition community, predominantly DE and S. It has developed a series of new blended learning which comprises a mix of e-learning and classroom courses which are focused primarily on training for civilian and military staff across the acquisition community.

Defence Procurement Agency: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has he made of the Defence Procurement Agency's capacity to meet its targets for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [195106]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Procurement Agency ceased to exist on 31 March 2007. Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S) was officially launched on 2 April 2007 bringing together the former Defence Logistics Organisation and the Defence Procurement Agency.

During its first year DE and S has been developing and testing an appropriate performance management regime with targets not externally reported. The exception is the Departmental Public Service Agreement Target For Equipment Procurement to which DE and S contributes and which will be published in the MOD Delivery Report.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on turning off computers *(a)* at the end of each work day and *(b)* at weekends; what the policy is for Sea King integrated project team employees at Sherborne, Dorset; and if he will make a statement. [193504]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current policy applied may vary dependant on the particular computer system employed at any given location, and the local security operating procedures (SyOps) that will also apply. The ongoing migration to the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) system will bring about a common policy requiring a workstation which is to be left unattended for a prolonged period of time, and in particular if it is to be left overnight or out of normal operating hours, to be logged off and powered down. It will however need to be left connected to the mains power supply so that software upgrades can be carried out remotely and automatically over the network during quiet hours.

The Sea King IPT currently operates on the Equipment Air Support Network which requires users to undertake shutdown and restart at the end of each working day, thereby leaving computers powered on so that software upgrades can be carried out at any time.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 524W, on Iraq: detainees, what the Government's policy is on the recording of information about individuals detained by UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. [194649]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* We maintain sufficient information on individuals during their time in our detention to enable the necessary monitoring and administration over that period and also to enable us to meet our reporting obligations to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether recordings have been made of interviews conducted with individuals captured by British forces during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; what his policy is on making such recordings; and if he will make a statement. [194678]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* It is our general policy that in both Iraq and Afghanistan, written or video records are kept of interviews with individuals held in detention by UK forces.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government has received any assurances from the US authorities regarding the treatment of detainees captured by UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan and subsequently transferred into US custody. [194706]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many seaborne attacks on coalition forces by armed gangs there were *(a)* in the Persian Gulf, *(b)* in the vicinity of Umm Qasr and *(c)* near the Basra oil terminal in each month of 2007. [193880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Throughout 2007 there were no reports of serious incidents involving attacks by non-state forces operating from the sea against coalition naval assets in these geographical areas.

Over the last year, there have been a number of incidents between coalition forces and naval forces from Iran, including the illegal detention on 23 March 2007 of Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel operating from HMS Cornwall, and an incident on 6 January 2008 involving US Navy ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when all Warriors deployed in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan will be equipped with the latest Wrap Two defensive technology; and at what cost. [194428]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Warrior Additional Protection 2 (WRAP 2) is an incremental programme of protection measures which is ongoing. We have already fitted certain types of additional armour protection to all Warrior vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be, likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

To date expenditure of some £80 million has been approved under the WRAP 2 programme.

Radar: Wind Power

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 665-6W, on radar: wind power, what assessment he has made of whether wind farms interfere with the interoperability of aerial defence systems. [195720]

Derek Twigg: We continually assess the possible impact of wind farms on the UK's aerial defences.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent consideration the House authorities have given to providing filtered tap water as an alternative to bottled water in committee and meeting rooms; and what estimate has been made of the cost of providing *(a)* tap and *(b)* bottled water in these rooms in 2008-09.[1] [194554]

Nick Harvey: The Administration Committee last considered the issue of the provision of drinking water in Committee and meeting rooms on 13 March 2007 and agreed to recommend that the current practice of supplying bottled mineral water to Committee rooms should continue. I understand that the Department of Facilities is re-examining the issue with the intention of providing further advice to the Administration Committee.

When the Administration Committee considered the provision of drinking water in 2007 the estimated annual cost of providing tap water in Committee and meeting rooms was between £7,000 and £6,000 depending on how the service was delivered. Part of the re-examination being carried out by the Department of Facilities focuses on how this cost can be reduced. The projected approximate cost of providing bottled water in Committee Rooms in 2007-08 is £10,000. Costs for 2008-09 should be broadly similar if there is no change to the current practice. Water is not routinely provided for other meetings except when ordered and paid for as part of a catering service. Data on separate purchases is not held in a consolidated form.

HEALTH

Abortion

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women died as a result of their taking the RU486 abortion pill in each year since 1993, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* health authority area. [195278]

Dawn Primarolo: To date, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have received three reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) with a fatal outcome. Of these three ADR reports, two patients were in the age bracket 18-35 years and for one report the patient age was unknown. To protect patient identity it is not possible to provide data by year of death, age or primary care trust of residence.

As with all medicines, the safety of Mifegyne (mifepristone, also known as RU486) is continuously monitored by the MHRA.

Maternal deaths associated with termination of pregnancy that were reported to the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) in the period 2003-05 are discussed in CEMACH's publication "Saving Mothers' Lives: Reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer—2003-05" (December 2007). A copy of this publication is available in the Library. This shows one direct death following a medical abortion, which was associated with sub-optimal care.

Blood: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of blood were collected in London in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by borough. [195114]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table gives the number of units of (whole) blood collected in London.

Financial year	*Whole blood collections in London postcodes*[1]
2005-06	97,892
2006-07	85,180
2007-08[2]	79,032

[1] The National Blood Service is unable to provide a breakdown by borough.

[2] To 17 March 2007.

1.*[Official Report, 26 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 4MC.]*

Information for year 2003-04—2004-05 can only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered blood donors there were in London in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by Borough. [195116]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) have provided information on the number of registered blood donors in London. This information is contained in the following table.

Start of financial year	*Active whole blood donors from London postcodes*[1]
April 2003	80,283
April 2004	74,926
April 2005	73,654
April 2006	70,521
April 2007	64,263

[1] NBS are unable to provide a breakdown by borough.

Care Homes: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the minimum staffing ratios for residential care homes for people requiring high dependency care that are wholly or partly funded from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [195843]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Regulation 18(1)(a) of the Care Homes Regulations 2001 requires that:

> "18.—(1) The registered person shall, having regard to the size of the care home, the statement of purpose and the number and needs of service users
>
> (a) ensure that at all times suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons are working at the care home in such numbers as are appropriate for the health and welfare of service users."

In addition, where a home provides nursing and, whether or not in connection with nursing, medicines or medical treatment to service users, the Regulations specify that a suitably qualified registered nurse must be working at the care home at all times.

The Care Homes Regulations apply to all care homes, whether operated and owned by public bodies or private or voluntary providers and regardless of how residents' care is funded.

Minimum staffing ratios are not specified. The National Minimum Standards for Care Homes, which the Regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), must have regard to when inspecting care homes, include requirements that service users needs must be met by the numbers and skill mix of staff. Staffing numbers and the skill mix of qualified/unqualified staff must be appropriate to the assessed needs of service users and the size, layout and purpose of the home at all times. It is for CSCI to judge whether these requirements are being met.

Clinical Trials: Data Protection

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* efficiency of and *(b)* protection of the public provided by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency with reference to the non-disclosure of the results of clinical trials of drugs by pharmaceutical companies. [195590]

Dawn Primarolo: Companies are legally obliged to submit all data from clinical trials to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) when making an application for a marketing authorisation. Although this clinical trial data is available to the MHRA and central to the licensing process, the law does not require it to be more widely available. However the Government support the principle of open access to information about health research and strongly encourage voluntary registration of trials on public registers.

It is equally important that any information from clinical trials that take place should be disclosed to the MHRA, regardless of where the clinical trials were conducted or how the medicine is currently licensed, if that information could have a bearing on safety.

We are satisfied that the MHRA takes all necessary steps to protect public health with regard to its assessment of clinical trial data made available to it. However recent investigations have shown that the law is insufficiently clear about pharmaceutical companies' obligations in the case of clinical trials undertaken when a drug is already on the market. The Government are now taking action to change the law to make companies' obligations clear and comprehensive.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192379]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Dietary Supplements

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's objectives were in discussions in Working Groups of the European Union and in bilateral dialogue with other member state competent authorities on the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; whether those objectives have been met; and if he will make a statement. [195591]

Dawn Primarolo: Two working group meetings with member states have been held to date. The Commission's principal aim was to obtain member states' initial views on an orientation paper it had issued in the summer of 2007.

The objective of the FSA in these initial meetings has been to promote the use of scientific evidence in establishing maximum levels.

We have been advised by the FSA that general discussions in the two working group meetings revealed that while member states support the broad objective of setting maximum levels on the basis of safety and science, many are yet to establish views on a range of issues.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194981]

Mr. Bradshaw: There has only been one claim of discrimination against the Department during the last five years. The claim was of sexual discrimination and occurred during 2006. It was settled outside of employment tribunal and did not result in any further litigation.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were born with *(a)* foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and *(b)* foetal alcohol syndrome in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [195453]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Waiting Lists

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients attending genito-urinary medicine clinics in *(a)* St. Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours in each of the last three months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [192980]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the percentage of people offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours at a genito-urinary medicine clinic, who were resident in the two Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire, East and North Hertfordshire PCT, West Hertfordshire PCT (which includes St. Albans) and England for the three months November, December 2007 and January 2008, is given in the following table.

Percentage

Month	*England*	*East and North Hertfordshire*	*West Hertfordshire*
November 2007	91.6	93.2	92.9
December 2007	92.0	87.6	81.4
January 2008	96.1	96.9	93.2

Health: Disadvantaged

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve the health of those living in deprived areas since 1997. [195844]

Dawn Primarolo: Health inequalities are unacceptable. We are improving the health of people in deprived areas, through our programme to tackle inequalities, which has a focus on the areas with the worst health and deprivation.

This commitment was strengthened further in September 2007, when my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that the Department will publish a comprehensive strategy in 2008 for reducing health inequalities that will address unjustified gaps in health status and ensure fair access to national health service services for everyone and good outcomes of care for all.

We have seen life expectancy at birth increase in all areas to an England average for males of 77.3 years for males, and 81.6 years for females—the highest ever levels. However, improvement has been slower in more deprived areas.

The current cross-government national health inequalities strategy, "Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action", was put in place to deliver the 2010 health inequalities target to narrow the gap in infant mortality, by social class, and life expectancy at birth, by geographical area.

We have established the spearhead group (SG) to provide a focus for the life expectancy element of the target, and inequalities elements of the national cancer and circulatory disease targets. The SG consists of the 70 local authorities (and 62 primary care trusts which map to them) which make up the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators.

Latest data for 2004-06 show that since the target baseline (1995-97), the relative gap in life expectancy between England and the SG has increased by 2 per cent. for males and by 11 per cent. for females, so the target remains challenging. However, we are seeing some signs of progress with 41 per cent. of spearheads on track to narrow their own life expectancy with England by 10 per cent., by 2010 for either males or females or both. In addition, we have seen a 32.2 per cent. reduction in the absolute cardiovascular disease inequality gap and an 11.3 per cent. reduction in the absolute cancer inequality gap between the SG and England since the 1995-97 Public service agreement target baselines.

A review of the infant mortality element published in February 2007, will help improve delivery of local services to disadvantaged populations by working in partnership with local government and others. An implementation plan and good practice guide to promote the findings of the review was published in December 2007.

We have also made health inequalities a key priority for the NHS, as set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2008-09. Incentives for the NHS and local authorities have been aligned with the same health inequalities indicators in both the "NHS Operating Framework 2008/09—Vital Signs" (a copy of this document has been placed in the Library) and the "New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators", a copy of this document is available in the Library.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been introduced to support primary care trusts and local authorities to develop a whole health and social care system, which meets the needs of local people and takes account of inequalities, and communities for health, a local authority-led initiative focussed on health improvement and reducing health inequalities promotes action across local organisations, including all spearheads.

In addition, the Department is providing tailored, intensive, assistance to areas that face the biggest challenges in delivering the 2010 target. We have established national support teams on health inequalities and on tobacco control and smoking cessation that will disseminate best practice across areas with high infant mortality rates and spearhead areas.

The Department and the Association of Public Health Observatories have jointly developed the interactive Health Inequalities Intervention Tool. Launched in August 2007, the tool helps local health services and councils improve life expectancy in spearhead areas.

Hepatitis

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1254W, on hepatitis, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the FaCe It campaign. [193920]

Dawn Primarolo: The aim of the hepatitis C FaCe It awareness campaign has been to increase hepatitis C diagnosis so that those infected can be referred for specialist care and treatment. There are two national outcome indicators, drawn from epidemiological surveillance by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), intended to track this.

The first indicator is the total number of laboratory confirmed hepatitis C infection reports. There has been a significant increase in hepatitis C diagnoses in England reported to the HPA through national surveillance from around 5,600 in 2003 (the year before the campaign began) to around 8,346 in 2007.

The second indicator is the proportion of injecting drug users attending treatment and support agencies, who are aware of their hepatitis C infection. The proportion who are aware of their hepatitis C infection has increased from 42 per cent. in 2003 to 54 per cent. in 2007.

Research into awareness among general practitioners and practice nurses in 2005 and the public in 2006 indicates that awareness of hepatitis C has increased since the campaign began. For example, the proportion of the public saying they know nothing at all about hepatitis C has almost halved to 23 per cent. in 2006 compared to 42 per cent. in 2003.

Other indicators of the impact of the campaign are that:

visits to the campaign website (www.nhs.uk/Livewell/hepatitisc) have increased from 67,558 (in 2005-06) to 349,711 (in 2007-08); and

calls to the Hepatitis C Information Line (0800 451451) have increased from 4,410 calls (in 2005-06) to 11,529 (in 2007-08).

HIV Infection: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency had been diagnosed as HIV positive at the latest date for which figures are available. [194722]

Dawn Primarolo: The data requested are not available by constituency. However, data are available by local authority. In 2006, 33 HIV-infected residents of Lancaster city council were reported to have been seen for HIV-related care.

In-Vitro Fertilisation

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish his Department's recent survey of primary care trusts' provision of in-vitro fertilisation treatment. [194088]

Dawn Primarolo: A summary of responses will be placed in the Library and on the Department's website in due course.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys his Department has initiated on primary care trusts' progress on implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on access to in-vitro fertilisation treatment; and if he will publish the results of these surveys. [190428]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* The Department has carried out a survey of primary care trusts and a summary of responses will be placed in the Library and on the Department's website in due course. The Department also funded a survey carried out in 2006 by the leading fertility patient support organisation Infertility Network UK, and the analysis and summary of responses has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079811.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the consultation being conducted by the Human Fertilisation and Embroyology Authority on single embryo transfer; and if he will make a statement. [195006]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's public consultation "The Best Possible Start to Life" was published in April 2007. It set out the options for reducing the incidence of multiple births following in vitro fertilisation. Following the consultation the authority concluded that a three year strategy was needed to enable the multiple birth rate to fall. They have called on the relevant professional bodies to lead on developing guidance on the best way to achieve this change. We have welcomed that work, which will be taken into account by the expert group which we are establishing to consider the barriers to the implementation of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence fertility guideline and assess how to help primary care trust commissioners.

Marie Stopes International: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has given to the Marie Stopes organisation to *(a)* establish and *(b)* maintain its recently established abortion telephone counselling service. [194711]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has provided no such funding.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medium and *(b)* high security mental health beds there were in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sex of occupants and (ii) region. [193500]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data collected record the numbers of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units, not the numbers of psychiatric secure unit beds. The data do not include independent sector beds.

The following table shows the average daily number of NHS secure unit beds, and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units in England over the last five years.

	Mental illness	*Learning disability*
2002-03	2,064	508
2003-04	2,569	514
2004-05	2,696	503
2005-06	2,807	526
2006-07	2,993	516

Notes:

These figures do not represent the full level of secure services available to the NHS. 'Low secure' mental health services are not consistently defined and may well fall outside the definitions. This means that the figures above mainly show the numbers in high and medium secure mental health services in NHS units. These figures also only show NHS beds and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers. *Source:* Department of Health Dataset KH03.

The definitions of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are:

Mental Illness—Other ages, Secure unit

An 'Age group intended' of National Code 8 'Any age', a 'Broad patient group code' of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a 'Clinical care intensity' of National Code 51 'For intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management. This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one-to-one nursing while on a standard ward'.

Learning disabilities—Other ages, Secure unit

An 'Age group intended' of National Code 8 'Any age', a 'Broad patient group code' of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a 'Clinical care intensity' of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit'.

The information on sex and region is not available in the format requested. Information on bed availability and occupancy by NHS organisations in England for 2006-07 and the preceding four years is available on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/beds_open_overnight.htm

Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many beds in psychiatric wards for adults *(a)* of working age and *(b)* older than the working age were occupied by patients whose discharge was delayed in each of the last three years, broken down by trust; and what proportion of all delayed discharges in the NHS those figures represented; [194730]

(2) how many discharges of psychiatric patients were delayed for reasons other than awaiting transfer to local authority care, in each of the last three years, broken down by individual trust; [194731]

(3) how many delayed discharge cases of psychiatric patients were awaiting transfer to local authority care in each of the last three years, broken down by trust. [194732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The specific information requested is not collected. However, for information on delayed transfers of care from non-acute beds in England for 2006-07 to 2007-08, broken down by primary care trust, has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to secure adequate psychological therapy provision in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194712]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ensuring adequate availability of services is the responsibility of local national health service organisations. Since 2006, the delivery of mental health services in Morecambe and Lunesdale has been the responsibility of Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Mentally Ill: Discharges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many beds on average in psychiatric wards in each trust were occupied by patients of *(a)* working and *(b)* pensionable age whose discharge was delayed in each of the last three years; and what proportion those figures represented of all delayed discharges in the NHS in each of those years; [191432]

(2) how many delayed discharge cases there were of psychiatric patients awaiting transfer to local authority care in each trust in each of the last three years; [191433]

(3) how many discharges of psychiatric patients in each trust were delayed for reasons other than awaiting transfer to local authority care in each of the last three years; [191434]

(4) what *(a)* targets and *(b)* guidance he provides to trusts on delayed discharges; and what sanctions are applied to trusts for delayed discharge of (i) general patients and (ii) patients with mental health problems. [191435]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no numeric target for delayed transfers of care, but we expect the national health service and its partners to keep delays at a minimal level. The new performance framework for local authorities and local authority partnerships includes an indicator for delayed transfers of care for all adult patients in all settings (acute, non-acute and mental health), which localities may incorporate in their local area agreement from April 2008 if appropriate to local circumstances.

Except where local multi-agency partnership working is the agreed way of helping patients to leave hospital as quickly as it is both safe and appropriate for them to do so, a council may be liable to pay £100 (£120 in London and the south-east) for each day that a patient in an acute bed has a delayed transfer of care because the council has not been able to put a suitable package of community care in place in time.

Specific guidance on hospital discharge includes the toolkits 'Achieving timely simple discharge from hospital: A toolkit for the multi-disciplinary team' (August 2004) and 'Discharge from hospital: pathway, process and practice' (January 2003). In addition, the Care Services Improvement Programme has published 'A Positive Outlook—A good practice toolkit to improve discharge from inpatient mental health care' (March 2007). Copies of all the documents have been placed in the Library and are available on the following websites.

Information on the numbers of people with delayed transfers of care in acute beds and in non-acute beds is collected, but is not currently available. It will be available shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Notes:

1. 'Achieving timely simple discharge from hospital: A toolkit for the multi-disciplinary team' is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4088366

2. 'Discharge from hospital: pathway, process and practice' is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003252

3. A Positive Outlook—A good practice toolkit to improve discharge from inpatient mental health care is available at:

www.nimhe.csip.org.uk/silo/files/apositiveoutlookpdf.pdf

Palliative Care: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Tamworth. [193619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South Staffordshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of GPs using choose and book and *(b)* the frequency of use by those GPs. [195315]

Mr. Bradshaw: The management information from the Department indicates that over 7,500 (89 per cent.) general practitioner (GP) practices made an electronic booking in February 2008 using choose and book. Information is not available on the frequency of use by those GPs. We can confirm over 7,300 (87 per cent.) GP practices used choose and book in each month from December 2007 to February 2008.

Patients: EC Action

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the European Commission's legislative proposal on information to patients; and if he will make a statement. [195396]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are currently considering their response to the European Commission's legal proposal on information to patients and seeking views from stakeholders including industry and patient organisations. The consultation is intended to inform the development of future legal proposals and as such, no impact assessment has been undertaken at this stage.

The Government support the development of improved frameworks for the delivery of medicines information across Europe to ensure that all patients have access to high quality, non-promotional information to help them make decisions about their health care. The statement in the consultation that the ban on direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription only medicines will remain is in line with long-standing United Kingdom policy and we will work to ensure that this important principle is maintained as the Commission's proposals develop.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration was given to including indicators of undernutrition in the list of vital signs in his Department's Operational Plans 2008-09 to 2010-11 on 31 January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [189583]

(2) for what reasons indicators of undernutrition were not included in the list of vital signs published in his Department's Operational Plans 2008-09 to 2010-11. [190250]

Dawn Primarolo: The range of indicators of vital signs published in the 'Operational Plans 2008-09 - 2010-11' (January 2008) reflect national priorities set out in 'The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09' (December 2007) and the Department's contribution to cross-Government public service agreements. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

We considered a wide range of existing indicators to support the development of the vital signs, and did this with the involvement of external stakeholders and an on-line engagement processes.

Plastic Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many elective cosmetic surgical operations there were, broken down by *(a)* trust and *(b)* type of operation in each of the last five years; [195398]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of privately-funded cosmetic surgery procedures which required remedial treatment by the NHS in each of the last five years. [195399]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of drug resistant gonorrhoea have been confirmed in each of the last five years, broken down by trust. [194441]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not available by individual trusts. The Gonococcal Resistance to Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (GRASP) monitors gonococcal antimicrobial resistance at 26 sentinel sites in England and Wales.

The number of patients attending genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics with confirmed gonorrhoea isolates submitted to GRASP for sensitivity testing in the last five years are presented in the following table.

Number of GUM patients with confirmed gonorrhoea isolates submitted to GRASP for sensitivity testing, 2002-06

	Number patients with confirmed gonorrhoea isolates submitted to GRASP for sensitivity testing
2002	2,204
2003	1,977
2004	1,795
2005	965
2006	1,242

Source:
GRASP

The percentages of patients with gonorrhoea isolates submitted to GRASP which had confirmed resistance to penicillin, tetracycline, ciprofloxacin, azithromycin, spectinomycin, ceftriaxone and cefixime in the last five years are presented in the following table.

Percentage of isolates from patients resistant to specific antimicrobials, 2002-06

Percentage

Antimicrobial	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Penicillin (MIC>=1 mg/l)	9.8	9.7	11.4	17.9	9.5
Tetracycline (MIC>=2 mg/l)	44.8	38.2	44.4	48.0	36.9
Ciprofloxacin (MIC>=1 mg/l)	9.8	9.1	14.0	21.7	26.5
Azithromycin (MIC>=1 mg/l)	0.4	0.9	1.8	2.2	2.0
Spectinomycin (MIC>=128 mg/l)	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0

Notes:

1. Since GRASP is a sentinel programme we cannot provide data at the level of primary care trusts.
2. MIC means Minimum Inhibitory Concentration and is defined as the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will inhibit the visible growth of a micro-organism after overnight incubation. The MICs shown for the specific antimicrobials define the cut-off for resistance to these antimicrobials.
3. Due to variations in the retrieval and confirmation of isolates submitted to Sexually Transmitted Bacteria Reference Laboratory of the Health Protection Agency in 2005, the data on resistance prevalence are statistically weighted. This is done to avoid resistance estimates being under representative of sites that have a low retrieval rate and over representative of sites that have a high retrieval rate. Consequently, estimates for previous years have been recalculated in this way and so values presented here may differ slightly from to the unweighted estimates that have appeared in previous GRASP reports.
4. The data presented for the percentage of isolates from patients resistant to specific antimicrobials, 2002-06, represent specimens collected from GUM clinics only.
5. No isolates have been found with resistance to ceftriaxone or cefixime over the last five years.

Source:
GRASP

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* Eastern and Coastal Kent primary care trust (PCT) and its predecessor PCTs and *(b)* PCTs with a similar sexually transmitted infection prevalence for sexual health services in each of the last five years; and what the average sexual health allocation was for PCTs in England in each year. [195152]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding to support sexual health services is not allocated separately to primary care trusts (PCTs) but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each

PCT's share of available funding. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve.

The revenue allocations made to Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table.

Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT

	Allocation (£000)
2003-04	643,780
2004-05	704,384
2005-06	769,650
2006-07	917,451
2007-08	1,013,331
2008-09	1,068,679

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed in each year since 1997, broken down by type of infection. [195797]

Dawn Primarolo: The total number of new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England between 1997 and 2006 is given in the following table.

The total number of new STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England; 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	147	131	211	322	717	1,196	1,538	2,033	2,574	2,515
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	12,399	12,535	15,549	20,494	22,398	24,357	23,492	20,779	17,702	17,445
Complicated gonococcal infection including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and epididymitis	260	261	311	339	368	378	414	397	329	324
Chancroid/ lymphogranuloma venereum/ Donovanosis	50	67	51	61	62	71	136	149	317	252
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	38,839	43,912	50,960	61,370	68,180	78,117	85,516	92,948	95,930	99,230
Complicated chlamydial infection including PID and epididymitis	1,625	1,852	2,195	2,642	2,619	2,705	2,728	2,964	2,959	2,950
Uncomplicated non-gonococcal/ non-specific urethritis males, or treatment of mucopurulent cervicitis in females	48,677	51,951	53,214	56,007	59,467	62,040	73,928	77,287	77,777	77,362
Complicated infection (non-chlamydial/ non-gonococcal) including PID and epididymitis	11,512	12,289	13,236	14,297	14,656	15,198	14,708	16,876	16,994	17,162
Trichomoniasis	5,968	6,175	6,089	6,767	7,012	7,196	6,509	6,221	5,388	5,521
Scabies/ pediculosis pubis	6,107	6,070	5,811	5,761	5,126	4,299	3,562	2,813	2,179	2,188
Genital herpes simplex—first attack	15,079	15,815	15,880	16,147	17,054	17,510	17,157	16,952	17,618	19,388
Genital warts—first attack	58,711	59,681	61,157	60,661	62,423	63,938	65,279	68,217	68,701	70,988
Molluscum contagiosum	6,197	6,736	7,400	7,791	8,574	9,437	10,425	11,937	13,085	14,099
New HIV diagnoses[1]: asymptomatic	1,488	1,455	1,636	1,854	2,764	4,279	4,762	4,823	4,888	4,439

The total number of new STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England; 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
New HIV diagnoses[2]: symptomatic (not AIDS)	1,114	758	709	668	967	1,189	1,105	1,054	1,177	981
AIDS: first presentation—new HIV diagnosis[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	313	333	376	279
Total new STI diagnoses	208,173	219,688	234,409	255,181	272,387	291,910	311,572	325,783	327,994	335,123

[1] "AIDS: first presentation—new HIV diagnosis" was added to the KC60 form in 2003.

[2] Data on new HIV diagnoses are included in the table to ensure the numbers of 'total new STI diagnoses' match published data. More comprehensive data on total new HIV diagnoses in England are collected through a different surveillance system that also includes non-GUM clinic settings. They are available on the HPA website at:
www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/Stats/HIV/NewDiagnoses/Files/2007_Country_England.pdf

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with chlamydia several times in one year and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not yet available for 2007.

In addition the following table shows the total number of new chlamydia diagnoses undertaken by the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in England between April 2003 and December 2007.

Number of confirmed positive chlamydia diagnoses in England: April 2003 to December 2007

Year	*Number positive of confirmed chlamydia diagnoses*
April 2003 to March 2004	1,756
April 2004 to March 2005	6,784
April 2005 to March 2006	11,003
April 2006 to March 2007	15,998
April 2007 to December 2007	18,544
Total	54,085

Notes:

1. The data are from NCSP registered screening venues and includes the Boots pathfinder project.
2. Data from the NCSP do not include diagnoses made in GUM clinics.
3. The NCSP screens those aged under 25 years and the data shown apply to the age group 13 to 24 years.
4. The NCSP began screening on 1 April 2003 and so data are only available from that date onwards.
5. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
6. The NCSP receive data on a quarterly basis. Data for the last quarter of year 5 (January to March 2008) is not yet available.

Source:
National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP)

Smoking: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he is considering to reduce levels of smoking among teenagers. [195971]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1482-83W.

Streptococcus: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2527W, on Streptococcus screening, when the proposal was made to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); when he expects a response from NICE; whether he has made an assessment of the method of processing swabs for group B streptococcus carriage in NHS trusts; and if he will bring forward proposals for the enriched culture method test to be available on the NHS. [194422]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposal for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to appraise the use of an enriched culture medium for the detection of Group B streptococcus (GBS) carriage in a subset of pregnant women with clinical risk factors was submitted on behalf of the UK National Screening Committee's GBS Coordinating Group in June 2006. NICE are currently considering this topic as part of a wider assessment of the approach they should adopt in assessing proposals for appraisals of diagnostics.

No separate assessment of the method of processing swabs for GBS carriage in national health service trusts has been made; the method used is for local services to determine.

Tobacco: Licensing

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when and by what means he plans to monitor the effectiveness of restricted premises and sales orders when they are implemented; what information will be collected as part of the monitoring arrangements; and over what period the information will be collected. [195581]

Dawn Primarolo: The first report on the impact of restricted premises and sales orders will be published in 2010, a year after the powers for magistrates to make the orders are due to come into force. Thereafter, a report will be made to Parliament annually.

A number of indicators will reflect the impact of the new powers and can be covered in the report. These include: the number of orders imposed and the number of applications for orders made by trading standards officers; the number of prosecutions against retailers for under-age sale of tobacco; the number of fixed penalty notices issued for under-age sale of tobacco by trading standards officers (under the Retail Enforcement and Sanctions law currently before Parliament); attempted purchase of tobacco by young people and the difficulty they encounter in doing so; smoking prevalence among older children and young teenagers under 18 (as reported annually in the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey); the number of failed test purchases and smoking prevalence among 16 to 18-year-olds.

WALES

British-Irish Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of his time is spent on the British-Irish Council; and what administrative support his Department provides to the Council. [195079]

Mr. Paul Murphy: It is too early to make a meaningful assessment of the proportion of time I will spend on British-Irish Council matters. Since my appointment I have attended a meeting in Dublin and held briefing meetings with officials. The Ministry of Justice provides the UK side of the joint UK-Irish Government secretariat which supports the work of the Council. Wales Office does not provide any administrative support to the BIC.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have made of the year-on-year changes in council tax receipts in Wales resulting from revaluation in 2005 after the end of transition relief. [195222]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The revaluation and re-banding exercise was intended to be revenue-neutral. Year-to-year changes in the level of council tax receipts are the result of local authority budget decisions.

The increase in Band D council tax was 3.8 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2005-06; 4.5 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07, and 4.4 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Governance: Accountability

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the options for improvement of accountability of governance in Wales. [195077]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The governance of Wales rests on three pillars—Parliament, the National Assembly and its Government, and local government. The Government of Wales Act 2006 made important improvements to the structure of the National Assembly and Welsh Assembly Government, which took effect last May. Since then we have seen the arrangements for incremental devolution of legislative powers to the Assembly under part 3 of the Act beginning to work through. These new arrangements are already serving to improve the accountability of governance in Wales. The Government have no current plans for any changes to the Government of Wales Act 2006 in relation to this area.

Hospitals

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information he holds on the number of English residents *(a)* in hospital and *(b)* in school in Wales. [195304]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I do not hold any information on the number of English residents in hospitals or schools in Wales; however *(a)* Health Solutions Wales produces the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW), and in 2005-06 there were 11,918 finished consultant episodes for patients from an English commissioner in a Welsh trust. (A finished consultant episode describes the time a patient spends in the continuous care of one consultant).

(b) Similarly, data from the Stats Wales school census for January 2006 show that there were 1,500 primary and secondary school pupils known to live in England, but were in educated in Wales. This does not include figures for children who attend independent schools.

JUSTICE

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in his Department. [188804]

Bridget Prentice: Pay ranges for the senior civil service (SCS), for whom reward arrangements are managed centrally, for 2007-08 are as follows:

SCS Pay Band 1

£56,100 (minimum), £116,000 (ceiling)

SCS Pay Band 1A

£65,280 (minimum), £127,000 (ceiling)

SCS Pay Band 2

£81,600 (minimum), £160,000 (ceiling)

SCS Pay Band 3

£99,960 (minimum), £205,000 (ceiling)

Below the SCS approximately 95 per cent. of staff employed on Ministry of Justice terms and conditions are paid according to Pay scales, of which those for 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

		Inner London (Range 1)	*Outer London (Range 2)*	*Hotspots (Range 3)*	*National Plus (Range 4)*	*National (Range 5)*
Band A	Minimum	41,250	38,825	35,295	35,295	35,295
	Maximum	65,000	62,000	58,000	58,000	58,000

		Inner London (Range 1)	*Outer London (Range 2)*	*Hotspots (Range 3)*	*National Plus (Range 4)*	*National (Range 5)*
Band B	Minimum	30,000	28,763	25,601	25,601	25,601
	Maximum	43,000	41,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Band C	Minimum	24,764	22,960	21,320	19,270	17,712
	Maximum	35,000	33,500	31,000	29,000	27,000
Band D	Minimum	20,252	18,675	17,181	15,604	14,774
	Maximum	28,000	25,000	24,000	22,560	21,000
Band E	Minimum	16,590	15,603	14,615	13,825	13,430
	Maximum	21,000	19,750	18,500	17,500	17,000
Band F	Minimum	14,432	13,312	12,382	11,972	11,726
	Maximum	17,600	16,600	15,100	14,600	14,300

A small number of staff are employed on the legacy arrangements inherited from the Magistrates' Courts Service and the former DCA such arrangements did not contain comparable pay bands.

Approximately 2,000 staff joined the Ministry of Justice from the Home Office in May 2007. They remain on Home Office pay scales pending talks with the Unions. There are a very small number of staff working for the Ministry of Justice on legacy terms from other Government Departments following other machinery of Government changes.

Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 378W, on offenders: custodial treatment, how many *(a)* young and *(b)* adult offenders have been sentenced to terms of immediate custody in the last five years for which records are available. [195031]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody by age group, sex and type of sentence, 1996 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Age, sex and year	*Total immediate custody*	*Total persons sentenced*
All persons		
Age 10-17		
1996	6,497	74,597
1997	7,083	79,092
1998	7,217	86,294
1999	7,653	90,160
2000	7,414	91,480
2001	7,596	95,485
2002	7,416	94,548
2003	6,200	92,531
2004	6,325	96,188
2005	6,015	96,203
2006	6,183	93,806
Aged 18-20		
1996	14,750	152,298
1997	15,785	156,459
1998	17,003	167,122
1999	18,011	165,412
2000	18,441	162,090
2001	17,948	157,907
2002	17,363	159,384
2003	15,438	162,067
2004	14,636	156,399
2005	14,231	146,051
2006	13,897	142,694
Aged 21 and over		
1996	64,002	1,198,472
1997	70,973	1,137,827
1998	76,346	1,203,360
1999	79,659	1,142,214
2000	80,332	1,160,618
2001	80,729	1,085,130
2002	86,828	1,156,572
2003	86,032	1,225,214
2004	85,361	1,284,239
2005	80,990	1,231,021
2006	75,937	1,176,440
All ages		
1996	85,249	1,425,367
1997	93,841	1,373,378
1998	100,566	1,456,776
1999	105,323	1,397,786
2000	106,187	1,414,188
2001	106,273	1,338,522
2002	111,607	1,410,504
2003	107,670	1,479,812
2004	106,322	1,536,826
2005	101,236	1,473,275
2006	96,017	1,412,940

Notes:

1. Section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 was repealed on 25 August 2000 and its provisions transferred to sections 90 to 92 of the Power of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.
2. Sentences for dangerous young offenders under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 which came into force on 4 April 2005 are included under 'Unsuspended imprisonment'.
3. See Preface and Appendix 3, paragraph 3.15.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice.

This table is also available as table 2.8 of the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, "Sentencing Statistics 2006" at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sentencing-stats2006pdf

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for possession of bladed and pointed articles in a public place in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these received a *(a)* custodial sentence, *(b)* community sentence and *(c)* fine. [195259]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following tables.

Number of persons sentenced[1] for the offence of possession of having an article with a blade or point in a public place, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

	1997			1998		
Police force	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*
Avon and Somerset	5	17	10	9	17	15
Bedfordshire	5	6	7	9	12	7
Cambridgeshire	1	6	7	4	9	5
Cheshire	7	14	17	11	18	22
City of London	0	3	5	0	0	5
Cleveland	1	0	8	1	9	9
Cumbria	2	7	16	3	7	8
Derbyshire	1	10	15	7	5	11
Devon and Cornwall	7	9	10	18	20	19
Dorset	3	6	7	7	12	7
Durham	1	4	9	3	11	7
Essex	19	34	17	27	39	13
Gloucestershire	1	4	6	2	8	12
Greater Manchester	20	52	51	30	49	70
Hampshire	6	20	26	11	26	27
Hertfordshire	3	12	10	4	9	5
Humberside	9	11	9	7	16	10
Kent	2	10	8	8	18	25
Lancashire	9	19	38	18	20	34
Leicestershire	4	23	6	10	28	12
Lincolnshire	0	2	5	1	11	7
Merseyside	8	31	81	15	31	70
Metropolitan Police	190	231	489	225	278	489
Norfolk	1	8	10	9	20	7
North Yorkshire	4	9	10	3	10	12
Northamptonshire	3	1	1	1	2	3
Northumbria	4	23	33	8	19	23
Nottinghamshire	7	18	9	5	22	6
South Yorkshire	3	15	15	7	18	22
Staffordshire	0	4	8	4	9	10
Suffolk	2	4	16	1	6	7
Surrey	0	5	3	0	0	4
Sussex	5	24	13	14	22	12
Thames Valley	9	13	19	8	20	25
Warwickshire	0	6	3	3	14	10
West Mercia	0	6	8	4	8	9
West Midlands	10	35	86	12	31	65
West Yorkshire	4	13	18	8	12	8
Wiltshire	0	8	4	2	20	5
Dyfed-Powys	3	2	3	2	3	5
Gwent	1	4	14	1	2	10
North Wales	5	13	18	9	12	24
South Wales	7	10	29	19	16	28
Total	93,841	139,990	987,985	100,566	149,388	1,049,115

Number of persons

	1999			2000		
Police force	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*
Avon and Somerset	15	37	19	14	23	21
Bedfordshire	7	5	3	12	17	4
Cambridgeshire	9	10	5	1	9	3
Cheshire	11	15	16	11	14	10
City of London	0	1	2	1	3	2
Cleveland	1	11	7	0	8	5
Cumbria	2	9	12	3	10	5
Derbyshire	5	16	6	10	12	9
Devon and Cornwall	13	15	24	7	20	22
Dorset	8	10	4	10	9	5
Durham	2	7	11	7	15	8
Essex	36	32	16	24	52	14
Gloucestershire	3	7	2	3	7	3
Greater Manchester	27	55	51	19	59	66
Hampshire	11	23	27	10	55	21
Hertfordshire	7	14	4	3	10	9
Humberside	12	25	12	8	26	12
Kent	10	24	20	10	17	20
Lancashire	11	20	34	3	23	30
Leicestershire	11	29	9	12	17	12
Lincolnshire	4	19	14	3	15	6
Merseyside	13	27	52	14	26	47
Metropolitan Police	181	252	369	195	320	356
Norfolk	6	17	12	5	11	12
North Yorkshire	6	12	11	8	8	6
Northamptonshire	4	1	4	1	0	2
Northumbria	11	36	24	11	33	27
Nottinghamshire	5	24	8	6	25	6
South Yorkshire	4	23	13	11	31	11
Staffordshire	4	5	19	0	0	12
Suffolk	2	10	4	5	6	5
Surrey	1	5	4	4	9	4
Sussex	17	34	19	11	35	13
Thames Valley	9	26	18	8	17	10
Warwickshire	7	8	1	3	7	4
West Mercia	1	4	6	1	1	2
West Midlands	9	26	67	13	52	87
West Yorkshire	10	19	11	6	18	15
Wiltshire	3	12	7	6	9	6
Dyfed-Powys	2	4	10	4	7	5
Gwent	0	3	13	2	3	13
North Wales	7	15	26	3	11	19
South Wales	27	17	30	11	16	37
Total	105,323	151,633	982,679	106,187	155,538	1,003,555

Number of persons

	2001			2002		
Police force	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*	*Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*
Avon and Somerset	16	35	18	25	53	21
Bedfordshire	3	17	7	5	16	6
Cambridgeshire	4	10	6	5	18	9
Cheshire	1	13	7	5	10	21
City of London	2	3	3	0	0	7
Cleveland	2	14	6	9	16	19
Cumbria	1	15	6	4	18	10
Derbyshire	17	21	6	11	31	13
Devon and Cornwall	8	19	19	10	37	31

Number of persons

Police force	*2001* *Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*	*2002* *Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*
Dorset	6	6	8	13	13	13
Durham	1	10	8	1	26	22
Essex	27	55	9	43	48	6
Gloucestershire	1	8	9	3	7	7
Greater Manchester	30	82	76	34	104	70
Hampshire	13	51	24	13	47	25
Hertfordshire	2	13	4	10	21	12
Humberside	7	18	7	6	26	18
Kent	12	19	23	5	15	8
Lancashire	9	25	31	10	31	26
Leicestershire	11	35	9	11	40	15
Lincolnshire	6	10	8	8	11	14
Merseyside	13	28	49	14	39	66
Metropolitan Police	262	473	449	319	698	479
Norfolk	4	21	4	9	23	11
North Yorkshire	6	18	9	4	25	10
Northamptonshire	2	1	0	1	0	1
Northumbria	15	53	35	17	55	36
Nottinghamshire	6	31	7	7	42	7
South Yorkshire	8	36	28	19	49	33
Staffordshire	6	6	13	12	25	17
Suffolk	2	12	7	6	24	10
Surrey	2	15	7	2	15	6
Sussex	10	43	19	25	55	22
Thames Valley	13	33	14	12	31	15
Warwickshire	2	10	2	3	17	5
West Mercia	2	4	1	0	2	1
West Midlands	26	119	113	43	97	138
West Yorkshire	9	45	13	13	40	24
Wiltshire	3	7	12	5	17	7
Dyfed-Powys	4	9	5	1	9	12
Gwent	1	3	11	2	13	11
North Wales	8	14	23	9	28	25
South Wales	6	29	31	12	34	38
Total	106,273	164,997	920,474	111,607	186,520	963,977

Number of persons

Police force	*2003* *Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*	*2004* *Immediate custody*	*Community sentence*	*Fine*
Avon and Somerset	19	52	21	21	59	22
Bedfordshire	17	21	7	11	35	8
Cambridgeshire	4	13	7	8	29	10
Cheshire	11	17	12	5	18	12
City of London	1	0	7	1	3	4
Cleveland	6	28	9	7	32	11
Cumbria	3	30	5	4	22	7
Derbyshire	13	40	12	18	46	18
Devon and Cornwall	14	43	32	15	42	15
Dorset	8	11	8	10	15	10
Durham	9	22	15	6	23	16
Essex	36	79	12	54	129	13
Gloucestershire	3	10	11	8	18	10
Greater Manchester	39	113	52	39	152	49
Hampshire	13	78	31	23	86	26
Hertfordshire	13	36	20	9	43	12
Humberside	9	19	15	6	56	12
Kent	7	14	9	1	7	3

Number of persons

Police force	*2003* *Immediate custody*	*2003* *Community sentence*	*2003* *Fine*	*2004* *Immediate custody*	*2004* *Community sentence*	*2004* *Fine*
Lancashire	10	49	36	9	71	39
Leicestershire	16	29	17	13	47	17
Lincolnshire	3	27	19	7	21	8
Merseyside	16	57	48	24	79	56
Metropolitan Police	289	614	473	286	673	353
Norfolk	6	33	8	10	35	10
North Yorkshire	5	25	10	6	30	17
Northamptonshire	2	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	21	66	35	16	77	33
Nottinghamshire	12	41	15	20	76	6
South Yorkshire	12	52	34	12	41	29
Staffordshire	7	16	15	8	36	17
Suffolk	8	20	5	14	25	13
Surrey	4	12	7	2	18	10
Sussex	21	51	18	18	60	13
Thames Valley	14	34	11	12	49	20
Warwickshire	4	9	1	3	14	5
West Mercia	1	1	0	2	7	3
West Midlands	43	98	119	48	137	101
West Yorkshire	15	45	29	15	81	32
Wiltshire	4	12	4	5	14	9
Dyfed-Powys	1	11	13	2	10	11
Gwent	0	4	15	3	20	16
North Wales	5	19	23	10	22	17
South Wales	11	37	35	12	55	35
Total	107,670	191,681	1,024,165	106,322	202,946	1,072,502

Number of persons

Police force	*2005* *Immediate custody*	*2005* *Community sentence*	*2005* *Fine*	*2006* *Immediate custody*	*2006* *Community sentence*	*2006* *Fine*
Avon and Somerset	15	51	12	31	77	9
Bedfordshire	15	31	15	19	27	4
Cambridgeshire	11	23	10	11	34	9
Cheshire	9	42	11	16	37	8
City of London	1	7	8	0	5	3
Cleveland	10	31	5	9	28	9
Cumbria	7	24	8	6	26	5
Derbyshire	20	34	14	13	36	9
Devon and Cornwall	26	66	22	18	42	15
Dorset	12	23	5	10	25	9
Durham	12	27	22	9	46	9
Essex	61	83	1	46	80	6
Gloucestershire	7	10	8	7	15	7
Greater Manchester	52	171	38	48	201	25
Hampshire	18	96	20	31	90	8
Hertfordshire	16	45	8	13	48	5
Humberside	18	56	15	21	49	6
Kent	2	12	0	2	6	0
Lancashire	20	69	30	17	58	24
Leicestershire	13	52	6	10	68	9
Lincolnshire	8	14	13	9	24	11
Merseyside	34	86	46	39	115	28
Metropolitan Police	296	825	277	312	806	203
Norfolk	15	32	5	15	24	5
North Yorkshire	8	26	9	9	28	5
Northamptonshire	1	5	0	2	0	0
Northumbria	19	95	37	19	91	36

Number of persons

Police force	*2005* *Immediate custody*	 *Community sentence*	 *Fine*	*2006* *Immediate custody*	 *Community sentence*	 *Fine*
Nottinghamshire	17	66	10	17	80	8
South Yorkshire	17	81	35	23	70	14
Staffordshire	10	22	13	19	37	9
Suffolk	5	28	18	22	39	9
Surrey	2	20	5	8	14	6
Sussex	19	54	11	27	75	3
Thames Valley	26	73	20	32	85	9
Warwickshire	1	16	3	3	15	3
West Mercia	16	43	16	18	48	8
West Midlands	61	117	92	70	171	64
West Yorkshire	21	85	28	17	94	20
Wiltshire	6	22	7	7	28	8
Dyfed-Powys	10	15	8	2	11	3
Gwent	2	18	6	5	21	16
North Wales	8	38	14	22	38	24
South Wales	18	63	20	36	58	19
Total	101,236	204,247	1,016,208	—	—	—

[1] Principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Prison Service: Retirement

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison staff at each prison retired due to medical reasons in each of the last 10 years. [195017]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of prison officers and other prison staff at each Prison Service establishment who retired due to medical reasons each year since 1998 is contained in the following tables.

Medical retirement: Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Acklington	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	7
Albany	4	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	9
Aldington (closed)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ashwell	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	6
Askham Grange	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Aylesbury	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	8
Bedford	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	7
Belmarsh	3	2	5	1	3	1	2	—	3	—	20
Birmingham	1	—	4	3	4	—	2	1	—	—	15
Blakenhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Blantyre House	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Blundeston	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	16
Brinsford	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	5
Bristol	8	3	1	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	20
Brixton	4	5	3	9	4	5	1	—	—	—	31
Brockhill	—	—	1	—	1	1		—	—	—	3
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Bullingdon	2	2	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	10
Bullwood Hall	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Camp Hill	1	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	8
Canterbury	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	7
Cardiff	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	—	17
Castington	—	4	2	2	6	2	1	—	—	—	17
Channings Wood	4	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	11

Medical retirement: Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Chelmsford	4	3	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	1	16
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Cookham Wood	1	1	1		1	—	1	2	2	—	9
Dartmoor	—	1	5	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	13
Deerbolt	2	3	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	10
Dorchester	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	8
Dover	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	11
Downview	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Durham	6	4	3	—	1	2	—	3	2	—	21
East Sutton Park	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Eastwood Park	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	5
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Elmley	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	5
Erlestoke	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Everthorpe	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Exeter	4	6	2	2	4	2	4	5	3	—	32
Featherstone	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	8
Feltham	4	2	3	3	4	3	2	1	1	—	23
Ford	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
Foston Hall	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4
Frankland	—	2	—	3	3	2	1	1	4	2	18
Full Sutton	—	4	3	4	—	—	1	1	—	1	14
Garth	1	1	—	3	2	—	—	1	1	1	10
Gartree	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	7
Glen Parva	6	4	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	17
Gloucester	2	3	—	2	—	2	1	1	2	1	14
Grendon	3	1	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	10
Guys Marsh	2	—	—	3	2	1	—	1	1	—	10
Haslar	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	4
Hatfield	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Haverigg	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	6
Hewell Grange	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
High Down	4	1	2	—	4	2	1	1	1	—	16
Highpoint	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hindley	1	2	—	2	2	8	1	3	—	—	19
Hollesley Bay	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Holloway	—	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	—	—	15
Holme House	1	5	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	11
Hull	6	1	—	1	—	3	—	1	1		13
Huntercombe	—	1	—	2	—	3	4	—	1	1	12
Kingston	—	1	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	6
Kirkham	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Lancaster	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	4	9
Lancaster Farms	3	1	1	2	—	1	2	2	2	1	15
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Leeds	3	3	1	—	2	2	3	1	1	—	16
Leicester	2	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
Lewes	—	1	1	2	3	—	4	—	3	3	17
Leyhill	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Lincoln	1	2	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	9
Lindholme	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	7
Littlehey	2	1	2	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	11
Liverpool	4	2	2	2	3	7	4	4	—	3	31
Long Lartin	6	5	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	21
Low Newton	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	8
Maidstone	4	1	—	1	—	4	4	1	—	—	15
Manchester	1	4	5	—	4	2	1	—	2	—	19

Medical retirement: Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Moorland	—	1	3	—	2	1	—	1	2	1	11
Morton Hall	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
New Hall	2	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	9
North Sea Camp	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	6
Northallerton	1	2	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	9
Norwich	5	—	1	3	1	2	—	1	1	—	14
Nottingham	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	9
Onley	—	1	—	—	3	4	1	1	2	—	12
Parkhurst	2	—	4	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	13
Pentonville	7	3	1	3	1	3	3	3	—	—	24
Portland	—	2	2	—	—	2	4	2	1	1	14
Preston	5	6	3	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	21
Ranby	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	8
Reading	—	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	—	12
Risley	4	3	5	5	3	6	2	—	3	—	31
Rochester	1	3	4	3	2	7	3	2	1	1	27
Send	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sheppey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Shepton Mallet	—	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	8
Shrewsbury	2	1	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	1	10
Stafford	6	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	13
Standford Hill	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	8
Stocken	2	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	13
Stoke Heath	2	1	3	—	4	5	4	1	1	—	21
Styal	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	9
Sudbury	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Swaleside	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	5
Swansea	2	3	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	11
Swinfen Hall	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
The Mount	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
The Verne	1	2	1	—	1	2	—	1	2	—	10
Thorn Cross	2	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	8
Usk/Prescoed	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Wakefield	5	9	3	4	2	4	3	1	2	1	34
Wandsworth	1	4	4	1	2	4	4	—	2	—	22
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Wealstun	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	8
Weare	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Wellingborough	1	—	1		1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Werrington	1	2	2	1	—	1	2	—	1	2	12
Wetherby	—	1	3	—	4	3	2	1	1	1	16
Whatton	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4
Whitemoor	3	3	6	3	2	4	—	1	—	2	24
Winchester	4	5	1	2	—	3	1	2	—	—	18
Woodhill	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	2	10
Wormwood Scrubs	4	3	5	1	2	5	2	—	—	1	23
Wymott	2	2	1	—	2	—	2	3	—	2	14
Total	217	194	162	146	140	169	116	96	83	58	1381

Medical retirement: all other grades at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Acklington	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	8
Albany	1	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	8
Ashwell	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Aylesbury	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	7
Bedford	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Belmarsh	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	14
Birmingham	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	7
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Medical retirement: all other grades at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Blundeston	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brinsford	3	1	1	1	—	1	—		—	—	7
Bristol	3	3	5	1	3	1	—	2	—	—	18
Brixton	—	1	2	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	10
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bullingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bullwood Hall	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Camp Hill	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	6
Canterbury	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cardiff	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	6
Castington	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	8
Channings Wood	1	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	7
Chelmsford	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Coldingley	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	6
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dartmoor	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	8
Deerbolt	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5
Dorchester	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Dover	2	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	8
Drake Hall	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Durham	1	4	—	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	15
East Sutton Park	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Eastwood Park	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	6
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Elmley	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	6
Erlestoke	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Everthorpe	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	6
Exeter	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	14
Featherstone	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	1	—	1	8
Feltham	—	2	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	9
Ford	1	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	8
Frankland	1	3	2	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	14
Full Sutton	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	7
Garth	1	3	4	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	14
Gartree	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Glen Parva	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	7
Gloucester	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Grendon	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	8
Guys Marsh	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	6
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hatfield	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Haverigg	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
High Down	1	2	2	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	11
Highpoint	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	8
Hindley	2	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	9
Hollesley Bay	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
Holloway	2	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	8
Holme House	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Hull	1	—	3	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	8
Huntercombe	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Kingston	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Kirkham	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	9
Kirklevington Grange	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lancaster	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lancaster Farms	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	7

Medical retirement: all other grades at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Leeds	1	—	5	—	1	1	2	2	1	2	15
Leicester	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	5
Lewes	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Leyhill	1	—	3	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	10
Lincoln	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	6
Lindholme	3	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	9
Littlehey	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	7
Liverpool	4	—	3	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	12
Long Lartin	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	5
Low Newton	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	8
Maidstone	1	1	2	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	10
Manchester	—	4	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	12
Moorland	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	5
Morton Hall	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
New Hall	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	6
Northallerton	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Norwich	3	1	2	3	—	1	1	1	1	—	13
Nottingham	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	5
Onley	2	2	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	10
Parkhurst	1	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	4	—	10
Pentonville	1	1	1	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	10
Portland	3	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	7
Preston	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	9
Ranby	1	2	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	10
Reading	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Risley	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	9
Rochester	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	1	9
Send	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Shrewsbury	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4
Stafford	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Standford Hill	3	2	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	12
Stocken	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Stoke Heath	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	1	7
Styal	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	—	3	15
Sudbury	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	6
Swaleside	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Swansea	2	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	8
Swinfen Hall	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	6
The Mount	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
The Verne	2	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	10
Thorn Cross	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Usk/Prescoed	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Wakefield	2	2	1	2	1	2	—	1	1	1	13
Wandsworth	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	7
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Wayland	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	4
Wealstun	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Weare	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Wellingborough	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	4
Werrington	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Wetherby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whatton	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	5
Whitemoor	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	6
Winchester	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Woodhill	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	6
Wormwood Scrubs	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	6

Medical retirement: all other grades at public sector establishments 1998 to 2007

Establishment	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Wymott	2	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	11
Total	127	116	112	80	73	71	66	47	49	37	778

Medical Retirement – Prison officer equivalent (Prison custody officer and senior prison custody officer) at contracted establishments - 1998 to 2007

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Altcourse[1]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Ashfield	Not open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronzefield	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Doncaster	Doncaster has had a total of five Officers medically retired in the last ten years. The contractor has not been able to provide data broken down by year.									
Dovegate	Not open	Not open	Not open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rye Hill[1]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Wolds[1]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s

Medical retirement - All other staff at contracted establishments - 1998 to 2007

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Altcourse[1]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Ashfield	Not open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronzefield	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Doncaster	Doncaster has had eight staff medically retired. The contractor has not been able to provide data broken down by year.									
Dovegate	Not open	Not open	Not open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Bank	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rye Hill[1]	Not open	Not open	Not open	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Wolds[1]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s

[1] Data on the number of staff medically retired has been provided by GSL as a combined figure for all three establishments Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds for all officers and staff. A total of eight staff have been medically retired since 2004. Data prior to 2004 is not available and could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Note:

n/s – Not supplied by the contractor within the time scale given. Information may become available at a later date.

Prisoners on Remand

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unconvicted prisoners are held in each prison in England and Wales; and how many were held in each of the last five years. [194122]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of untried remand prisoners held in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 31 January 2008 (the most recent figures available) and at 30 June each year since 2003.

Prison	*June 2003*	*June 2004*	*June 2005*	*June 2006*	*June 2007*	*January 2008*
Acklington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Albany	—	—	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	177	158	152	152	164	157
Ashfield	71	43	39	42	53	38
Ashwell	—	—	—	—	—	—
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedford	153	114	108	103	106	109
Belmarsh	366	395	344	299	318	273
Birmingham	326	333	353	352	341	334

Prison	*June 2003*	*June 2004*	*June 2005*	*June 2006*	*June 2007*	*January 2008*
Blakenhurst	207	235	270	242	246	241
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundestone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brinsford	125	142	124	110	133	101
Bristol	151	150	136	149	153	135
Brixton	284	349	241	285	284	285
Brockhill	50	45	38	17	—	—
Bronzefield	—	22	137	162	203	173
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	104	113	129	142	154	142
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camp Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	94	133	129	112	132	128
Castington	60	69	63	63	57	52
Channings Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	147	155	150	147	174	177
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deerbolt	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	215	172	209	231	228	248
Dorchester	45	39	60	56	66	63
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dover	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downview	—	3	9	7	3	3
Drake Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	179	176	176	189	167	157
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	77	54	40	67	66	64
Edmunds Hill	—	75	—	—	—	—
Elmley	197	153	247	204	263	178
Erlestoke	—	—	—	—	—	—
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exeter	133	132	122	129	108	116
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	220	291	299	320	295	314
Ford	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	154	218	244	245	243	296
Foston Hall	—	—	14	12	14	22
Frankland	—	—	5	—	—	—
Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gartree	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	94	95	123	174	115	108
Gloucester	64	72	60	66	53	59
Grendon/ Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highdown	219	176	189	190	206	248
Highpoint North*	73	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	19	22	22	30	24	20
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	188	179	126	88	114	106
Holme House	156	129	118	127	167	141
Hull	181	139	171	145	172	152
Huntercombe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston (Portsmouth)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	115	72	67	47	115	60
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	268	221	216	186	172	191
Leicester	88	121	110	105	112	101
Lewes	140	113	119	161	144	142
Leyhill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	93	71	95	78	147	123
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	—
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	192	149	152	179	178	187
Long Lartin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Newton	26	20	30	28	32	24
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	249	210	220	213	215	206
Moorland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moorland Open	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	59	51	39	32	40	42
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwich	89	113	135	119	71	58
Nottingham	164	122	154	102	141	114
Onley	39	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	58	69	53	56	54	52
Parkhurst	11	12	14	8	10	8
Pentonville	371	361	450	438	425	370
Peterborough	—	—	121	125	131	179
Portland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preston	166	167	141	187	182	161
Ranby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reading	46	33	49	57	88	65
Risley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Send	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	90	59	46	53	74	77
Stafford	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prison	*June 2003*	*June 2004*	*June 2005*	*June 2006*	*June 2007*	*January 2008*
Standford Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stocken	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	21	40	33	32	25	26
Styal	84	69	62	59	65	63
Sudbury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swaleside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swansea	71	67	85	68	68	77
Swinfen Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Mount	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Verne	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Weare	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Wolds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—
Usk/ Prescoed	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	313	312	319	351	370	343
Warren Hill	—	20	30	18	11	11
Wayland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Werrington	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wetherby	43	34	28	43	41	138
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winchester	125	134	138	129	121	107
Woodhill	197	229	247	202	208	226
Wormwood Scrubs	249	264	284	330	317	322
Wymott	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,896	7,716	8,084	8,064	8,387	8,014

The table is drawn from F1032 tables, copies of which were sent to the House of Commons Library at time of issue.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what account prison governors take of representations from *(a)* psychiatrists and *(b)* legal counsel in determining the eligibility date for early release of an offender; and if he will make a statement; [195083]

(2) what mechanisms exist to ensure that, in determining the eligibility of an inmate for early release, a prison governor, *(a)* has access to and *(b)* takes full account of (i) a complete set of the papers involved in the case and (ii) a full report of the sentence from the sentencing judge; and if he will make a statement. [195084]

Mr. Hanson: The only decisions governors make are in respect of home detention curfew (HDC) and End of Custody Licence (ECL).

Prisoners may only be released on HDC subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a risk assessment. Prisoners who are assessed as presenting a high risk to the public or a victim, who have a high risk of reoffending during the curfew period or who are likely to be unable to comply with the curfew condition will not be granted HDC.

Psychiatric reports may be included in the assessment of risk, where appropriate. Legal representations are unlikely to be included in the risk assessment unless they present evidence that affects the assessment of risk.

A streamlined, presumptive HDC scheme exists for prisoners serving less than 12 months. Under the scheme eligible prisoners serving sentences of between three months and under 12 months are released on HDC unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. This streamlined scheme is applicable only to low risk, less serious offenders. Drug dealers and violent offenders are not eligible for Presumptive HDC and are subject to the standard risk assessment process. Psychiatric reports would not routinely be examined where a prisoner is eligible to be considered for Presumptive HDC.

Details of the sentence(s) currently being served by the prisoner are set out on the warrant of imprisonment which, in the case of sentences imposed by a Crown court, are supplemented by the court record sheet. Details of the current sentences are provided to the governor as part of the HDC case papers. Comments made by the sentencer at the time of sentencing are not normally provided to the prison unless the prisoner's release is subject to a decision by the Parole Board.

Under ECL, prisoners serving between four weeks and four years are released under temporary licence for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. There is no individual assessment of risk; however the most serious violent offenders and registered sex offenders are excluded from the scheme.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) under what circumstances an inmate sentenced to serve a 12 month prison sentence could be released after serving just three months in custody; on how many occasions this has occurred in each of the last five years; what proportion of those sentenced to serve 12 months this represents in that period; and if he will make a statement; [195085]

(2) how many inmates serving sentences of 12 months or less have received remission of *(a)* 90 days or *(b)* less than 90 days in considering eligibility for early release; and if he will make a statement. [195086]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners serving a sentence of 12 months could be released on home detention curfew (HDC) after serving a minimum of three months in custody, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria for early release and passing the risk assessment.

The following table shows the number of prisoners serving a sentence of between three months and 12 months who would be potentially eligible for HDC and, of these, the number released on HDC and the proportion.

	Potentially eligible population in sentence length band	Released	Percentage
2002	30,574	10,680	35
2003	32,098	10,533	33
2004	32,011	10,204	32
2005	30,273	8,507	28
2006	29,389	6,114	21

Data are not available on the actual periods served on HDC by each prisoner released. The maximum period that a prisoner may serve on HDC is tapered according to length of sentence. Prisoners serving sentences of between three months and 12 months may serve between 15 days and three months on HDC.

Prisoners serving between four weeks and four years who are not released early on HDC may be eligible for release up to 18 days earlier than their automatic release date (normally the half way point of sentence) under the End of Custody Licence scheme (ECL). Data about the scheme is published every month on the Ministry of justice website. Since the scheme began in June 2007 to the end of January 2008, 18,583 prisoners had been released on ECL of whom 15,175 prisoners were serving sentences of less than 12 months.

These data have been drawn from the relevant OMCS and Prison Statistics England and Wales publications and the End of Custody Licence report, all of which may be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what account prison governors are required to take of the minimum term to be served identified by the sentencing judge in determining the early release date of an inmate; and if he will make a statement; [195087]

(2) under whose discretion an inmate serving a prison sentence of 12 months would be released after three months, where the sentencing judge determined that a minimum of six months should be served; what conditions are placed on the exercise of such discretion; and if he will make a statement. [195092]

Mr. Hanson: Statutory provisions determine when an offender will be released. In the case of an indeterminate sentence, the judge specifies a minimum term, which is served in full before release is possible. For determinate sentences, the judge specifies the total sentence length and release is then according to statutory provisions in respect of the length and type of sentence imposed.

Prisoners serving a sentence of 12 months may be eligible for release under the Home Detention scheme up to three months earlier than their automatic release date if they meet the statutory eligibility criteria and pass the risk assessment.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances an inmate would receive remission of 90 days when considering eligibility for early release from a prison sentence of 12 months or less; and if he will make a statement. [195088]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners sentenced to 12 months or less are statutorily entitled to automatic release at the half way point of their sentence. They may be released earlier under the Home Detention Curfew scheme (HDC) if they meet the statutory criteria and are considered suitable. To be released 90 days early, a prisoner must be serving a sentence of at least 360 days. Prisoners serving shorter sentences would not be eligible for release 90 days early.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on an inmate's eligibility for early release from prison when serving a sentence of *(a)* less than 12 months, *(b)* between 12 months and four years and *(c)* more than four years. [195089]

Mr. Hanson: Different release provisions apply depending on the provisions under which the prisoner has been sentenced.

Prisoners who are subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 who are serving sentences of less than four years are automatically released at the halfway point of the sentence. Those serving sentences of four years or more are eligible for consideration for early release by the Parole Board at the half way point in their sentence and, if early release is not granted, are automatically released at the two thirds point of their sentence.

Prisoners serving standard determinate sentences of at least 12 months who are subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) are automatically released at the half way point in the sentence. Prisoners serving extended sentences for public protection under the provisions of the 2003 Act are eligible for consideration for release by the Parole Board at the halfway point of the custodial term.

In the case of prisoners given indeterminate sentences for public protection or life sentences, the minimum period to be served before parole will be granted is determined by the sentencing judge and release is thereafter at the discretion of the Parole Board.

Early release before the halfway point of sentence

The Home Detention Curfew scheme enables eligible prisoners serving primarily between three months and less than four years to be released, depending on their sentence length, up to 135 days earlier than their statutory automatic release date. 'Long term' prisoners serving sentences of four years who are subject to the release arrangements of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 are statutorily ineligible for HDC. Prisoners serving sentences of four years or more and who are subject to the release arrangements of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are not statutorily excluded from HDC but are presumed unsuitable unless there are exceptional circumstances. Some groups of prisoners are excluded from HDC, such as registered sex offenders and prisoners serving extended sentences.

Under the End of Custody Licence scheme, prisoners serving between four weeks and four years are released under temporary licence for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address.

Prisoners: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many diabetics received treatment while in prison in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [195112]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally. In April 2006, responsibility for commissioning health services in publicly run prisons in England fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts. The aim of the Gvernment is to ensure prisoners have access to the same quality and range of health care services as the general public receives from the NHS. Treatment of prisoners with diabetes is therefore provided in line with the National Service Framework on diabetes.

Prisoners: Injuries

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many detainees were involved in incidents that resulted in illness or self-harm in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* in the last 10 years. [195110]

Maria Eagle: This information is not available in the form requested but we can estimate the numbers of prisoners involved in self-harm incidents from 2003, as follows.

Number of prisoners[1] involved in self-harm incidents[2]

	Number
2003	4,891
2004	5,361
2005	5,758
2006	5,904
2007	6,038

[1] These are estimates of the number of individuals, based on 94 per cent. of recorded incidents of self-harm. Recorded self-harm is based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS). Self-harm is a high volume incident and is subject to technical and recording problems but the system provides a sensible indication of the numbers of incidents and individuals who self-harm.

[2] Recorded self-harm incidents (and particularly figures of prisoners involved derived from them) before 2003, when new procedures were introduced, are not fit for purpose.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for the provision of treatment for alcohol and drug dependencies for detainees. [195111]

Mr. Hanson: The following treatment options are available for prisoners with an alcohol problem:

clinical services (alcohol detoxification), available in all local and remand prisons, as well as some young offenders institutions;

Alcoholics Anonymous run groups in 67 per cent. of prisons;

where alcohol is part of poly-drug misuse, CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services) are available in all prisons with the exception of HMP Blantyre House;

a range of more intensive interventions is being piloted; and

the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for 16 to 18-year-olds provides support for those with both alcohol and drug problems in 18 prisons.

A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place to address the needs of those with drug misuse problems comprising:

clinical services (detoxification and maintenance prescribing);

CARAT services which also take the lead Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) role in prisons, engaging with prison resettlement teams and criminal justice integrated teams (CJITs) in the community; and

intensive drug rehabilitation programmes, run in 99 prisons.

Prisons

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people over the age of 18 years were placed in custody in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195327]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Figures for Jarrow are not available as the court proceedings database only records down to court level.

Number of persons aged 18 and over sentenced(1) to immediate custody in South Tyneside, the North East and England and Wales, all courts, 1997-2006

	Number of persons									
Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
South Tyneside[2]	86	164	231	174	206	133	129	103	137	108
North East[3]	13,748	15,000	16,644	17,201	17,239	17,072	16,341	15,492	13,891	12,958
England and Wales	86,758	93,349	97,670	98,773	98,677	104,191	101,470	99,997	95,221	89,816

[1] Principal offence basis.

[2] The South Tyneside district includes an adult and a youth court.

[3] The North East region includes; Northumbria, Durham, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside and Cleveland.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice 17 March 2008, Ref: PQ(RN)125-08

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Reoffenders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 383-84W, on re-offenders, what the results were of the trials of intermittent custody; and what the reasons were for the decision to make no further use of the sentence for the time being. [195133]

Mr. Hanson: The decision to end the intermittent custody pilots was informed by the research report "Intermittent Custody Pilots: a descriptive study", which was published as Home Office Online Report 23/06 and is available electronically at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr2306.pdf

Intermittent custody was seen to have had some success, but also to be a relatively expensive and appropriate for only a minority of offenders. The infrequency with which the disposal was likely to be used was not considered to justify the cost of implementation.

Resomation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislation to allow for disposal of bodies via resomation; and if he will make a statement. [195102]

Bridget Prentice: We do not have any plans to bring forward the changes to primary legislation necessary to allow for disposal of bodies via resomation at present. We are, however, aware of the growing interest in resomation as an alternative method of disposal. In view of this interest, we are giving consideration to the representations that have already been made to us and are exploring how best to engage more widely on this issue.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public service agreement targets which relate to increasing access to the arts among priority groups and participation in the arts by priority groups his Department has set since 1997; and what progress has been made on each of them. [194915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Public service agreements (PSAs) apply only to Government Departments. The Department published its first set of PSAs in December 1998 and agreed a measurement methodology in March 1999. Since then we have agreed new PSAs with HM Treasury as part of each subsequent spending review (SR). We publicly report progress against these targets in our departmental annual report (DAR) and autumn performance report (APR) each year, copies of which can be found in the House Library. Priority groups are those from black or minority ethnic groups, with a physical or mental disability, or those in the lower socio-economic groups. The PSAs relating to increasing access to and participation in the arts and the progress made on them are as follows:

SR period	*Number*	*Indicative title*	*Outcome*
1998	8	Increase access to performing arts	Met
2000	5	Increase arts participation	Met
2002	2	Increase significantly take-up of arts opportunities by new users aged 20 and above from priority groups	No change in attendance or participation in the arts for any priority group
2004	3	Increase the number of people from priority groups who participate in arts activity at least twice a year by 2 per cent. and increase the number who attend arts events at least twice a year by 3 per cent. by 2008	Ongoing

Further details of each PSA can be found in the relevant DAR or APR.

Arts: Community Development

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* other government departments and *(b)* local authorities on community arts projects in the last 12 months. [194453]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has had no such discussions since taking up his post in January this year. The Department, however, has recently published A Passion for Excellence, an improvement strategy for culture aimed at supporting local authorities, which includes art services. It was developed with partners in local government, major cultural non-departmental public bodies, the Improvement and Development Agency and other partners.

Arts Council England distributes Lottery funding to a diverse range of community arts projects throughout the country and is active in the Living Places Partnership, which aims to help create thriving, vibrant communities through culture and sport.

BBC: Sponsorship

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provisions govern the BBC's use of sponsorship in relation to *(a)* live events and *(b)* the broadcasting of such events subsequently; and what recent assessment has been made of the BBC's compliance with such provisions. [195434]

Andy Burnham: The BBC's use of sponsorship is governed by the relevant provisions in its Royal Charter and Framework Agreement. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to assess whether the BBC is complying with such provisions.

Casinos: Closures

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many land-based casinos have closed in the last 12 months. [195406]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* Five land-based casinos have closed since 1 April 2007. Of those five, one casino has relocated to other premises and four have retained their licence but are not currently operating.

Casinos: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has plans to change the age of admission from 18 to 21 years old for land-based casinos. [195407]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* The Secretary of State has made it clear that he is keen to hear Members' views on this issue. No change to the admission age to casinos will be made prior to full consultation on the matter.

Cultural Heritage: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 13 February 2008 entitled young people to get five hours of culture a week—£135 million funding boost announced, when he plans to establish the Youth Culture Trust. [194874]

Andy Burnham: We expect the Youth Culture Trust to be formally set up by the start of the financial year 2009-10. In the interim the programme of Find Your Talent pilots will be managed by the Arts Council's Creative Partnerships scheme in close partnership with all other major stakeholders working in this area.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding has been provided to campaigns promoting *(a)* responsible consumption of alcohol and *(b)* responsible gambling since 1997. [194921]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS has not provided any public money to campaigns promoting responsible consumption of alcohol or gambling since 1997.

However the Gambling Commission, (one of the Department's NDPBs) regulates gambling in the public interest. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The Home Office and the Department for Health are leading on campaigns to challenge the binge-drinking culture and associated antisocial behaviour and to raise awareness of the risks of harmful drinking.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on (i) reports, (ii) conferences and (iii) the public service publisher project. [194927]

Andy Burnham: Ofcom put forward the public service publisher (PSP) concept as one of several options in its first statutory Review of Public Service Broadcasting and subsequently published a discussion paper in 2007. I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to write to the hon. Member setting out any costs it may have incurred.

The Government have not commissioned any reports or held any conferences specific to the PSP concept, nor does it record separately the cost of considering individual policy issues.

Digital Broadcasting: Swansea

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to be able to give a date for the ending of analogue signals from the Kilvey transmitter in Swansea. [194689]

Andy Burnham: The Kilvey Hill transmitter will stop broadcasting analogue signals between July and September 2009. Digital UK will announce the exact date at the end of the year. Digital UK is responsible for communicating detailed dates to viewers and will be providing them with information that will help them through the process of switchover.

Digital Broadcasting: Visually Impaired

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to expand further audio description on digital television; what discussions he has had with broadcasters on this matter; and what strategy is in place to help those with visual impairment as part of the digital change over process. [195717]

Andy Burnham: The Communications Act sets minimum targets for audio description of programmes by broadcasters. It is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that these requirements are met and to ensure broadcasters are taking effective steps to publicise awareness of their audio description services. In this regard, Ofcom facilitated the Audio Description Awareness Campaign, which was launched by television broadcasters and the RNIB on 1 February 2008. During this six-week campaign, more than 70 television channels broadcast promotions explaining how to find out more about this valuable service.

The Department has had no direct discussions on the above subject with broadcasters.

The scope of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme does include those who are registered blind or partially sighted. Help is free of charge to those who are eligible and on income support or pension credit. Others will pay a £40 charge.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support is available to increase access to audio description equipment via digital television. [195718]

Andy Burnham: Registered blind or partially sighted people are eligible for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. Audio Description is accessible through the equipment provided by the scheme. Help is free of charge to those who are eligible and on income support or pension credit. Others will pay a £40 charge.

Grants: Merseyside

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was awarded to Wirral South constituency by *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* Sport England and *(d)* the Heritage Lottery Fund between 2002 and 2008. [194741]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Wirral South constituency from the 1 January 2002 up until 13 March 2008 received the following grants:

Distributing body	*Total value of grants (£)*
Big Lottery Fund and its predecessor bodies the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund	3,599,913
Arts Council England	21,544
Sport England	50,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	812,500

The information is location specific. That is the list includes only grants that have been supplied as being specific to locations in the constituency and excludes grants that might have gone to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but are not otherwise coded as related to it. The Department's lottery grants database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

This information does not include grants reported as Awards for All.

Handball: Females

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking on increasing participation in competitive handball by schoolgirls; [195446]

(2) what steps he is taking on increasing participation in competitive aerobics by schoolgirls. [195448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 21 sports with competition frameworks in place; this does not currently include handball and aerobics.

However, we are currently working with Governing Bodies and School Sport Associations to improve their competition frameworks, and we are establishing a national network of competition managers to implement our plans at a local level.

Ultimately, individual School Sport Partnerships decide which sports should be offered to pupils based on local needs.

Increasing inter and intra-school sporting opportunities is a key component of the National School Sport Strategy, which is delivered jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Museums: Closures

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regional museums closed in each year since 1997. [194917]

Margaret Hodge: Since the start of the Renaissance programme in 2002, none of the regional hub museum services have closed. Information for all independent, local authority or charitably funded museums is not held centrally.

Music

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 321W, on music, if he will break down the figures provided for Arts Council funding by type of music. [194823]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council's grant in aid funding for music in 2007-08 can be broken down as follows:

Brass receives £22,850; Chamber music receives £658,772; Choral and gospel music receives £113,380; Classical and orchestral music receives £21,455,157; Community music receives £1,888,104; Contemporary classical music receives £892,364; Contemporary popular music receives £800,118; Early Music receives £207,795; Experimental and electronic music receives £248,981; Folk music receives £320,599; Jazz music receives £1,006,801; Opera receives £36,522,425; World music receives £1,565,860; and other music receives £2,339,410.

In addition, the Royal Opera House receives £26,252,600 which contributes to both opera and ballet. Carnivals and cultural festivals where music plays a part receive £258,570.

Performing Arts: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department made available for youth *(a)* theatre, *(b)* dance and *(c)* music in each of the last 10 years. [194918]

Margaret Hodge: Government investment and support for the arts is primarily channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). The following tables show ACE investment for regularly funded organisations (RFO) and Grants for the Arts (Gfta) for each of the artforms since 2002-03. Prior to the merger of the Arts Council of England and the Regional Arts Boards in 2002, funding was distributed nationally by the Arts Council, and regionally by the Arts Boards. Overall expenditure by artform was not collated, and for this reason it has not been possible for ACE to provide figures prior to 2002-03.

(a): Funding for youth theatre

	RFO funding	*Gfta funding*	£ *Total*
2002-03	8,465,268	0	8,465,268
2003-04	10,737,727	10,117,589	20,855,316
2004-05	11,200,490	13,748,122	24,948,613
2005-06	6,659,079	15,862,624	22,521,702
2006-07	6,920,570	16,065,916	22,986,486
2007-08	7,219,666	12,058,020	19,277,686

ACE also funds theatre organisations that are recognised as having a policy and practice to produce work for, engage with or develop education support for children and young people.

Youth theatre RFC

	£
2002-03	49,180,272
2003-04	56,763,181
2004-05	60,034,218
2005-06	65,391,301
2006-07	68,010,882
2007-08	70,133,514

In 2005, my Department allocated £1.8 million strategic commissioning money to ACE for the development of youth theatre for the period 2005-08. The Young People's Participatory Theatre project which received £1.58 million of this funding has now received funding for 2008-09.

(b) Funding for youth dance:

	RFO funding	*Gfta funding*	£ *Total*
2002-03	635,037	0	635,037
2003-04	917,571	6,373,668	7,291,239
2004-05	1,060,909	6,448,474	7,509,383
2005-06	530,001	9,247,818	9,777,819
2006-07	566,262	8,292,480	8,858,742
2007-08	582,353	5,339,711	5,922,064

The following table shows ACE funding for regularly funded dance organisations involved in youth dance work.

Youth dance RFO

	£
2002-03	21,746,087
2003-04	23,051,234
2004-05	25,136,081
2005-06	29,033,461
2006-07	30,647,68.1
2007-08	31,606,574

Over the last four years my Department has also provided funding of £480,000 for the Dance Links scheme which is part of the National School Sport Strategy.

(c) Funding for youth music:

	RFO funding	*Gfta funding*	£ *Total*
2002-03	165,000	10,000,000	10,165,000
2003-04	179,500	15,584,223	15,763,723
2004-05	258,465	16,845,423	17,103,888
2005-06	432,681	19,083,623	19,516,304
2006-07	451,918	18,575,396	19,027,314
2007-08	453,780	14,852,872	15,306,652

In addition, my Department has also supported a number of programmes that give young people access to a broad range of artforms. This includes the Creative Partnerships programme where over £166 million has been provided since 2002 and which has run over 7,500 projects.

Sports Events: Ministerial Visits

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many women's sporting events he has attended in an official capacity since appointment. [195409]

Andy Burnham: Since my appointment as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at the end of January 2008 I have not attended any women's sporting events in an official capacity.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many school sporting events he has attended in an official capacity since appointment. [195449]

Andy Burnham: Since my appointment as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 25 January 2008 I have not yet attended any specific school sports events. However I attended the annual Sports Colleges Conference in Telford on 1 February.

Playing Fields: Capital Investment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital has been allocated to new school playing fields in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [187070]

Jim Knight I have been asked to reply.

The Department allocates capital to local authorities and schools, and then relies on the local community to prioritise how it is spent between school buildings, sports facilities, playing fields and other capital assets. Accordingly, it does not maintain central records on how much capital has been allocated to sports facilities or playing fields.

Since 1997, total capital allocations have increased from under £0.7 billion per annum to a planned £21.9 billion over the next three year period.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of council tax for a dwelling in each constituency was in each year since 1997. [195579]

John Healey: Council tax data are not collected at constituency level but details of the average council tax per dwelling for each local authority in England are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of her Department's initiatives and those of its predecessors were advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was in each year. [192271]

Mr. Dhanda: For figures relating to 2002-03 to 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 806-7W.

Figures for advertising and marketing campaigns in the financial year 2006-07 were published in the Department's annual report on 17 May 2007, which is available in the Libraries of the House.

We do not hold the information for previous years centrally and it could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and may save lives, as with fire safety. They must be communicated effectively to meet our duty to inform and in order for policies to be successful. There are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department *(a)* paid the pay increases for the 2007 pay round, *(b)* completed the race impact assessments of the 2007 pay deal and *(c)* made the race impact assessments available to the recognised trades unions for each of her Department's bargaining units and Government offices. [193707]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

DCLG (HQ)

Department for Communities and Local Government (HQ) 2007 pay round increases were paid in February 2008 and March 2008. The equality impact assessments will be made by June 2008 as agreed with the recognised trade unions.

Government Offices

The Government Offices were paid the 2007 pay round increases at the end of October 2007. The 2007 pay offer was equality proofed in august and the results were given to Trade Unions in September.

The Planning Inspectorate

The 2007 PINS pay award and arrears were paid with staff salaries in February 2008. A race impact assessment has not been completed.

Fire Service College

The 2007 pay award increases in salary were processed in February 2008. A full impact assessment of the 2007 pay deal is being completed and will be shared with the recognised trades unions at the next Whitley council meeting in May.

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

The Centre's base pay increases for the 2007 pay round were paid in November 2007 salaries. A race impact assessment has not been completed.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average basic pay for full-time equivalent *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) AA, (ii) AO and (iii) EO or equivalent grades is in each of her Department's bargaining units. [193709]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

DCLG (HQ)

The following table shows the current average salaries for men and women in AA, AO and EO grades in DCLG (HQ).

Grade	*Female*	*Male*
AA London	20,114	20,114
AA National	17,605	18,232
AO London	24,119	24,084
AO National	20,564	20,998
EO London	27,363	27,567
EO National	24,405	23,856

Government Offices

There are no AAs of either gender employed in GO London or GOSE. The current (January 2008) average full-time annual salaries for the other grades in London, South East (Outer London) and elsewhere (National) are:

Grade	*Female*	*Male*
AA National	14,271	14,574
AO London	22,554	21,983
AO Outer London	20,105	19,155
AO National	16,815	16,592
EO London	25,212	25,906
EO Outer London	22,807	22,638
EO National	20,518	20,589

The Planning Inspectorate

These are the current average salaries of male and female staff in PINS at AA, AO and EO. These are calculated as the total full-time equivalent salaries by grade and gender, divided by the number of staff.

Grade	*Female*	*Male*
AA	15,349	15,452
AO	18,093	17,879
EO	22,972	22,830

Fire Service College

The average basic pay for full-time equivalent male and females in the Fire Service College are as follows:

Grade	*Female*	*Male*
AA	12,620	[1]—
AO	16,007	17,555
EO	20,088	19,979

[1] No male AAs

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Grade	*Female*	*Male*
AA	[1]—	[1]—
AO	[2]26,453	21,231
EO	25,677	24,482

[1] Only one person

[2] No AA employees

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of staff in her Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193550]

Mr. Dhanda: 66 members of staff in Communities and Local Government (3 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has decreased to 53 members of staff (2 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1324W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what the notional monetary value was of the efficiency gain recorded by moving to a fortnightly collection of household rubbish for each of the local authorities listed in the forward and backward look statements. [191664]

Mr. Dhanda: Local authorities report their efficiency gains to the Department for Communities and Local Government through annual efficiency statements, which are published on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/deliveringefficiency

The statements are not submitted in a format that would allow information on fortnightly collection to be identified on a robust basis.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1324W, on Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal, how moving to a fortnightly collection of household rubbish from weekly collection generates a *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency gains for the purposes of inclusion in her Department's annual efficiency statements. [191665]

Mr. Dhanda: A legitimate efficiency gain is generated when a council restructures service provision to provide a more efficient service to the same client group in a way that maintains overall output and service quality.

Councils are required to note the definition of efficiency set out in 'Measuring and Reporting Efficiency Gains':

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/measuringreporting

If the net costs of waste collection fall, while service quality is maintained, this leads to a cashable gain. When outputs or service quality associated with waste collection improves for the same net cost, this leads to a non-cashable gain.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what allocation was made to each fire authority for *(a)* fire control, *(b)* fire link and *(c)* new dimensions programmes in each year since 2002, broken down by region. [195408]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is listed in the following tables.

Fire control—Grants to fire and rescue authorities

			£
Fire and rescue authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority	11,616	76,984	111,904
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority	11,170	80,366	118,157
Essex Fire Authority	15,411	92,742	132,170
Hertfordshire County Council	11,839	82,412	117,039
Norfolk County Council	193,796	216,233	331,130
Suffolk County Council	11,616	79,425	115,043
East of England Total	255,448	628,162	925,443
Derbyshire Fire Authority	28,179	158,096	613,165
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	222,125	335,943	2,157,403
Lincolnshire County Council	28,416	148,068	525,606
Northamptonshire County Council	26,589	144,838	269,849
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	29,006	159,421	525,225
East Midlands Total	334,315	946,366	4,091,248
Greater London Authority	87,571	234,150	659,062
London Total	87,571	234,150	659,062
Cleveland Fire Authority	219,699	325,541	1,193,418
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	31,227	142,711	293,546
Northumberland Fire Authority	28,814	131,633	248,152

Fire control—Grants to fire and rescue authorities

£

Fire and rescue authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	33,948	160,944	388,365
North East Total	313,688	760,829	2,123,481
Cheshire Fire Authority	15,230	93,692	177,393
Cumbria County Council	12,998	85,963	128,299
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	243,923	118,093	283,347
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	19,025	99,611	224,957
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	21,257	239,612	465,158
North West Total	312,433	636,971	1,279,154
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	11,231	95,538	135,765
East Sussex Fire Authority	11,555	99,159	143,632
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	14,705	112,472	320,891
Isle of Wight Council	10,779	87,619	123,409
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	15,573	115,410	296,981
Oxfordshire County Council	11,141	94,284	143,810
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	13,671	97,139	157,406
Surrey County Council	11,555	104,084	143,551
West Sussex County Council	218,713	234,415	382,295
South East Total	318,923	1,040,120	1,647,742
Avon Fire Authority	33,082	52,986	462,041
Cornwall Fire and Rescue Authority	28,588	52,986	56,041
Devon Fire and Rescue Authority	33,732	188,818	—
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	—	—	2,899,563
Dorset Fire Authority	46,559	52,986	56,041
Gloucestershire County Council	29,834	52,986	1,114,041
Somerset Fire Authority	29,794	724,619	—
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority	195,455	52,986	56,041
South West Total	397,944	1,178,367	4,643,768
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	71,277	148,228	319,276
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority	11,375	137,554	269,128
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority	15,626	161,277	331,032
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority	10,803	138,902	256,054
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	166,056	357,304	785,796
West Midland Total	275,137	943,265	1,961,286
Humberside Fire Authority	14,799	83,956	123,024
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	12,541	84,736	124,080
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	16,828	88,617	170,161
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	201,302	239,954	531,957
Yorkshire and Humberside Total	245,470	497,263	949,222
FireControl Total	2,540,029	6,865,493	18,480,404

New dimension—Grants to fire and rescue authorities

£

Fire and rescue authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority	92,758	147,749	43,071	35,000
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority	76,000	94,400	43,071	35,000
Essex Fire Authority	189,700	537,019	1,325,981	868,724
Hertfordshire County Council	55,200	69,100	35,000	35,000
Norfolk County Council	107,601	396,262	925,431	868,724
Suffolk County Council	—	245,191	43,071	88,510
East of England Total	521,259	1,489,721	2,415,625	1,930,958
Derbyshire Fire Authority	72,000	49,300	35,000	70,000
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	146,900	742,046	1,008,295	892,724
Lincolnshire County Council	288,500	649,528	938,777	868,724
Northamptonshire County Council	47,000	35,550	43,071	35,000
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	50,400	270,462	43,071	88,510
East Midland Total	604,800	1,746,886	2,068,214	1,954,958
Greater London Authority	1,695,800	2,618,243	6,943,907	3,774,896
London Total	1,695,800	2,618,243	6,943,907	3,774,896
Cleveland Fire Authority	14,400	54,518	35,000	35,000
County Durham and Darlingtan Fire and Rescue Authority	33,600	41,556	38,459	35,000
Northumberland Fire Authority	31,000	48,938	39,612	35,000
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	399,616	556,419	887,635	868,724
North East Total	478,616	701,431	1,000,706	973,724
Cheshire Fire Authority	150,10	236,822	147,883	70,000
Cumbria County Council	219,954	182,942	43,071	88,510
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescur Authority	178,992.70	262,350	145,000	70,000
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	68,000	427,051	1,206,400	903,724
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	146,400	689,469	998,945	868,724
North West Total	763,447	1,798,634	2,541,299	2,000,958
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	45,200	383,469	791,766	1,058,224
East Sussex Fire Authority	93,302	67,550	35,961	35,000
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	252,900	711,909	1,271,641	922,234
Isle of Wight Council	33,600	51,222	43,071	35,000
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	228,200	717,710	1,237,557	957,234
Oxfordshire County Council	67,200	35,440	177,524	35,000
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	50,072	311,931	43,071	35,000

New dimension—Grants to fire and rescue authorities

£

Fire and rescue authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Surrey County Council	28,800	115,543	35,000	35,000
West Sussex County Council	—	578,939	408,042	505,024
South East Total	790,274	2,973,713	4,043,633	3,617,716
Avon Fire Authority	42,400	384,019	1,454,684	868,724
Cornwall Fire and Rescue Authority	85,000	136,000	258,812	70,000
Council of the Isles of Scilly	7,400	—	20,000	10,000
Devon Fire and Rescue Authority	305,295	747,489	951,759	—
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	—	—	—	992,234
Dorset Fire Authority	71,200	109,800	265,752	35,000
Gloucestershire County Council	60,800	89,822	245,391	88,510
Somerset Fire Authority	78,000	62,500	410,264	0
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority	63,200	56,637	113,751	35,000
South West Total	713,295	1,586,267	3,720,413	2,099,468
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	73,800	627,608	1,100,325	957,234
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority	176,540	152,573	35,000	35,000
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority	75,600	98,270	195,530	70,000
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority	—	83,066	35,000	35,000
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	111,800	631,494	1,283,022	938,724
West Midland Total	437,740	1,593,011	2,648,877	2,035,958
Humberside Fire Authority	78,100	75,230	36,180	35,000
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	73,600	107,920	43,071	88,510
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	16,000	60,850	35,000	35,000
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	151,000	1,733,746	1,076,379	1,428,532
Yorkshire and Humberside Total	318,700	1,977,746	1,190,630	1,587,042
New Dimension Total	6,332,933	16,485,652	26,573,304	19,975,678

Please note that no grants have yet been paid to fire and rescue authorities in respect of the FireLink programme.

The figures for Fire Control and New Dimension include forecasts for certain resilience grants which have yet to be paid.

Fires Services: Floods

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents involving flooding the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each year since 2000; and how many people the Fire and Rescue Service rescued from flooding in each such year. [195794]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Floods: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide resources to local authorities to assess the flood risk for those properties built in high flood risk areas; and if she will make a statement. [192835]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency undertakes risk assessments of river and coastal flooding at a variety of scales, and routinely shares these with local authorities. Under Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), local planning authorities should prepare Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, primarily to inform land use planning and the location of new developments. In many cases, these assessments will provide information on the risk of flooding for areas in which there are existing properties.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review existing flood defences in respect of *(a)* homes in high flood risk areas and *(b)* homes planned for construction in high flood risk areas; and if she will make a statement. [192834]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of flood defences in England. The Agency plans and carries out an annual programme of maintenance which is geared to allowing assets to perform as designed and is focused on those assets that contribute most to reduction in flood risk.

The Environment Agency has classified which assets and activities contribute most to flood risk reduction, particularly around the number of properties protected, and use this to target investment. It takes into account the current actual condition of assets through a programme of visual inspection and channel condition and also known seasonal changes such as reed and other vegetation growth. The Agency uses this information to establish the required work and its relative priority. Funding is allocated on this basis, thereby ensuring the best possible condition of assets is provided with the funding available.

Where planning applications are submitted for new homes in areas of flood risk these must be considered in line with policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS35) on development and flood risk, published in December 2006. PPS25 seeks to direct development away from areas of highest risk and ensure that all developments are safe and do not increased flood risk elsewhere.

Housing Associations: Standards

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers will be available to her under the provisions of the Housing and Regeneration Bill *(a)* to compel housing associations to carry out Government policy mandated to housing via a new regulator and *(b)* to impose regulations on community services provided by housing associations; and whether she plans under any circumstances to reclassify housing associations as public bodies. [195722]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing and Regeneration Bill sets out the powers of the new social housing regulator—Oftenant—in relation to registered providers of social housing.

Under the Bill the Secretary of State's powers to direct the regulator will be limited to the regulator's role in setting standards in relation to social housing. (At present the Secretary of State can direct the Housing Corporation in relation to any of its functions including, for example, enforcement action.) It is our intention that Ministers should only use these powers to give strategic direction on key issues of direct interest to government—including levels of rent, the physical quality of accommodation, and landlords' engagement with tenants. I am planning to table amendments to the Bill which make these intentions clearer. The Bill as amended will not, therefore, allow the Secretary of State to impose standards in other areas.

In addition, the regulator's powers to set standards, and to take enforcement action against providers who fail to meet standards, are bound by the regulator's fundamental objectives. In particular Objective 10 requires the regulator to

> "regulate in a manner which minimises interference, and is proportionate, consistent, transparent and accountable."

The classification of bodies as public or private sector is a matter for the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS have previously judged registered social landlords to be private non-financial corporations, taking into account the existing regulatory framework. HM Treasury advise that the additional regulatory measures being introduced though the Housing and Regeneration Bill are not relevant to the sector classification of registered social landlords. They will therefore have no effect on the status of housing associations.

Lighting

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities reported efficiency savings from street light management in *(a)* backward-look and *(b)* forward-look efficiency statements made to her Department in each year since the statements' inception. [194647]

Mr. Dhanda: Local authorities report their efficiency gains to the Department for Communities and Local Government through annual efficiency statements, which are published on the Department's website at:

> www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/deliveringefficiency

Councils that referenced "street lighting" in their efficiency statements may have made these gains from improvements to any aspect of their street lighting service, and not simply through more efficient management of street lighting.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on efficiency savings to be achieved from the management of street lighting. [194648]

Mr. Dhanda: We have issued no specific guidance on measuring efficiency from management of street lighting. General guidance to councils on the completion of annual efficiency statements is available at:

> www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/measuringreporting

This makes clear that efficiency is about raising productivity and enhancing value for money, and that service cuts are not eligible to be counted as an efficiency.

Local Area Agreements: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for the production of guidance on the scrutiny of local area agreements; and what the reasons are for the time taken. [193832]

John Healey: Building on earlier discussions with stakeholders, our priority is to establish the new local area agreements and our current timetable for guidance on overview and scrutiny, including guidance on the scrutiny of local area agreements, is to consult on draft guidance before the summer.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Wycombe of 6 February 2008 about the Medical Middle Way roadshow and Kemal Helbawy. [195791]

Mr. Dhanda: I have now replied to the hon. Member's letter.

Regional Planning and Development: Fines

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from what budget the fine levied on the UK by the European Commission for irregularities in the auditing of European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 and 3 monies in the north-west of England will be paid; and if she will make a statement. [194473]

John Healey *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* The financial correction levied by the European Commission in respect of the Objective 2 and Urban II programmes in the north-west of England will be deducted from the amounts claimed from the EC. Appreciation of the value of the Euro during the period of suspended payments means that the original value of the claim will be more than covered by the ERDF payments made by the Commission. The Objective 3 programme in the north-west was not included in any audit inquiries.

I have written to the chair of the CLG Select Committee with details, and have deposited a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Standards Board for England: Information Officers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press, marketing, media and communications staff are employed by the *(a)* Standards Board for England and *(b)* the Adjudication Panel for England. [194827]

John Healey: The Standards Board's communications unit comprises nine staff employed for all or part of their time on such activities. The Adjudication Panel does not employ dedicated staff on these matters.

TRANSPORT

London Midland: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess *(a)* the procedures adopted by London Midland to acknowledge and respond to correspondence from (i) hon. Members and (ii) members of the public and *(b)* the steps being taken by the company to make it easier for telephone calls to be made to its offices. [195586]

Mr. Tom Harris: The chapter entitled "Answering your enquiries" on page 25 of London Midland's Passenger's Charter, outlines how the company can be contacted by post, telephone, fax and e-mail. London Midland report their performance against these criteria every four weeks to both the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and the Department for Transport.

Copies of the Passenger's Charter can be obtained from the ticket offices at London Midland's staffed stations or at other selected stations served by their trains. The document can also be downloaded from London Midland's website at:

www.londonmidland.com

Aviation: Scotland

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage of passengers departing from airports in Scotland flying to the United States who flew *(a)* directly, *(b)* via another UK airport and *(c)* via another airport in Europe in the latest period for which figures are available. [195587]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows percentage of passengers departing from airports in Scotland flying to the United States.

Passengers from airports in Scotland (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Prestwick), 2005

	Percentage/number
Flying directly to the United States (Percentage)	37
Flying to the United States transiting through another UK airport (Percentage)	45
Flying to the United States transiting through another airport based in Europe (Percentage)	17
Flying to the United States transiting through another airport based in other countries (Percentage)	1
Total passengers between airports in Scotland and USA (Million)	1.2

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on morning start times for free off-peak bus travel for pensioners. [194400]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's published guidance sets out the available times for statutory concessionary bus travel which are defined in the Transport Act 2000. The statutory minimum concession is available from 9.30 am to 11 pm Monday to Friday and at all times at weekends and on bank holidays. Local authorities retain the flexibility to offer concessionary travel beyond the statutory times, taking account of local circumstances, at their own expense.

Bus Services: Disabled

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2753W, on concessions: mentally ill, what the evidential basis is for determining which groups of disabled people should be entitled to concessionary bus fares. [193733]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Transport Act 2000 (or for those resident in London, the Greater London Authority Act 1999) set out the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus travel, covering any person who is blind or partially sighted; is profoundly or severely deaf; is without speech; has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to walk; does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms; has a learning disability that is a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning; or would, if he or she applied for a grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his or her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

The Secretary of State issued guidance to local authorities which sets out the statutory minimum requirement which they must observe to satisfy the law, and to which they must have regard in reaching a decision on eligibility.

Bus Services: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public funding has been allocated to the Fastrack bus transport system operating in Dartford and Gravesham to date. [194107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: So far a total of £40.6 million has been allocated from public funds to stage 1 of the Fastrack project, covering the period from its commencement in 2003-04 to the scheduled completion date in 2010-11. This includes £28.4 million from the Department for Transport.

Bus Services: Speed Limits

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers of public buses were fined for breaking the speed limit when driving a bus in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [195626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no statistics of the types of vehicle driven in speeding offences.

Dartford Tunnel: Queen Elizabeth II Bridge

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much pre-payment income was received from *(a)* light or medium goods vehicle category and *(b)* heavy goods vehicle or special type vehicle DART tag holders at the Dartford River Crossing in each of the last 12 months; and how many crossings were made by such customers in the last 12 months; [194109]

(2) how much pre-payment income was received from motor car category DART tag holders at the Dartford River Crossing in each of the last 12 months; and how many crossings were made by such customers in the last 12 months. [194112]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following figures are estimates for annual figures for the last 12 months. It has not been possible to produce monthly figures broken down by vehicle class.

Vehicle class	*Number of crossings in last 12 months*	*Revenue in last 12 months (£)*
Cars	4,931,151	4,573,977
Light Goods	3,040,672	5,049,734
Heavy Goods	4,264,283	10,117,235
Total	12,236,106	19,740,946

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the sums to be paid by her Department in unoccupied property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [193770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport estimate of sums to be paid in unoccupied property rates are as follows:

(a) 2007-08

	£
DfT (Central)	3,829
Driving Standards Agency	117,842
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	9,000
Highways Agency (office property)	25,500
Highways Agency (commercial property)	3,500

(b) 2008-09

	£
DfT (Central)	7,969.50
Driving Standards Agency	446,033
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	0
Highways Agency (office property)	51,000
Highways Agency (commercial property)	8,000

Vacant property is kept under active review and sale or letting arranged wherever possible.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not record the information requested separately as it forms part of the Private Finance Initiative contract with Land Services Trillium. Aforementioned figures are estimated and no empty property rates payments are forecast for 2008-09.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Vehicle Certification Agency, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency do not have any empty properties.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in her Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (central) does not record overnight accommodation expenditure for Northern Ireland separately from the rest of the UK. Between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008 £479,929 was spent on overnight accommodation in the UK, £1,003 in the Republic of Ireland, and £135,088 overseas. The Department does not record Ministers' expenditure separately from civil servants'. There has been no expenditure on overnight accommodation for special advisors within the 12 month period.

None of the Department's agencies record Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland separately. The Vehicle Certification Agency spent £68,400 in UK, and £19,714 overseas. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency cannot separate overnight accommodation from other associated travel and subsistence payments. Their total travel and subsistence expenditure was £2,108,100 in the UK, and £834,462 overseas. The Highways Agency spent £803,337 in the UK and £7,943 overseas. These figures represent the hotels booked through their central contract which forms the majority of their expenditure. A small amount of accommodation expenditure may have been claimed as travel and subsistence, but cannot be separated except at disproportionate cost.

The remaining agencies (Driving Standards Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) cannot provide the information except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of her Department's expenditure was allocated to Government growth areas in the last year for which figures are available. [190953]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available across the Department's programmes.

Freight: Scrap Metals

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles carrying scrap metal were involved in fatal accidents in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195724]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by her Department through call centres. [194879]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies are very conscious of the need to provide a high level of service to all customers, including those with hearing disabilities. As a result, all call centres are able to communicate by phone with hearing impaired customers using text-based systems.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the validity of the *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* evidential basis of the information supplied by BAA for the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document; [193992]

(2) whether she commissioned an independent assessment of the information supplied by BAA for the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document. [193993]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data and assumptions used in the Heathrow work have been subject to scrutiny by Department for Transport (DfT) officials and relevant experts throughout the project management process. In particular, DfT's own air traffic and fleet forecasts have been used as benchmarks to quality assure BAA's forecasts at the most detailed level possible. Road traffic data draws on a variety of established sources including the Highways Agency and Transport for London, and modelling has been validated as described in the supporting technical report on surface access.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the documents her Department has given BAA access to in relation to the development of proposals for Heathrow expansion and preparation of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document. [193994]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As we clearly envisaged in the Air Transport White Paper, BAA have participated, along with other key stakeholders, in a wide range of technical work since 2003 to assess the scope for developing Heathrow within the strict local environmental limits set by the Government.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the increased passenger numbers envisaged in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport document are forecast to be transit passengers travelling between non-UK destinations. [194007]

Jim Fitzpatrick: International-to-international transfer passengers are forecast by DfT to comprise 32 per cent. of the extra demand at Heathrow airport in 2030 which would result from the additional capacity proposed under option one in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document.

A detailed explanation of the DfT air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasting methods and results is given in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (November 2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have held with representatives of (i) Sipson, (ii) Harmondsworth and (iii) Cranford in relation to Heathrow Airport expansion. [194012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To better understand expectations for the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation, prior to its launch on 22 November 2007, officials from the Department held meetings with a number of local residents' associations from communities around Heathrow airport. This included meetings with the Harmondsworth and Sipson residents' association and the Cranford Cross residents' association. In addition, representatives from the Harmondsworth and Sipson residents' association also attended a meeting I held on 21 November with a range of stakeholders with interests in Heathrow airport. There have been no other meetings with these representative groups.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to monetise changes to air quality likely to arise out of Heathrow expansion. [194037]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As stated in our recent Heathrow consultation document (Annex B, paragraph 2.30 and elsewhere) we plan to monetise air quality effects in the post-consultation impact assessment, in line with standard DEFRA methodology.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response she has made to the Atkins Report entitled Demonstrating Confidence in the Project for Sustainable Development of Heathrow Air Quality Work. [194039]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This report was commissioned by the Department for Transport and forms part of the supporting evidence for the Government's recent Heathrow consultation. It does not require a response from the Department.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many short-haul flights landed at Heathrow Airport in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [194571]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: The number of short-haul international flights that landed at Heathrow in 1997 and 2007 were 127,000 and 125,000 respectively.

Short-haul international origin/destinations include flights to Europe (including EU-27, Norway, Switzerland, Gibraltar, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Turkey and former Yugoslavia).

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission an independent scientific report on the likely effects of the third runway at Heathrow. [195184]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 March 2008]*: The recent consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' follows an extensive programme of assessment and analysis, involving a wide range of experts in the field, and sets out our findings. We have no plans to commission a fresh study.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the accuracy of the data on which the consultation on a third runway at Heathrow Airport was based. [195217]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 March 2008]*: The data and assumptions underlying the Heathrow consultation have been subject to careful scrutiny throughout the project management process, including by experts in the field. We are satisfied that the material presented in the consultation documents is robust.

Heathrow Airport: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact on accident risk of her proposals for airport expansion set out in Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport. [194011]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While the issue of safety is not the subject of the consultation, safety is of course paramount. The Department is confident that a third runway and the other proposed operational changes could function while meeting safety requirements. This issue was considered in the consultations in the run-up to the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper. Any proposal taken forward by the airport operator would have to meet Civil Aviation Authority and international safety requirements and it would be for the airport operator to demonstrate this during the planning process.

Heathrow Airport: Exhaust Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the level of carbon dioxide emitted annually by incoming international flights arriving at Heathrow. [193999]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory reports annual CO_2 emissions for domestic and international aviation for the UK, but not at individual airports.

The report 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (November 2007) shows DfT forecasts of aviation emissions by airport, including an estimate for the base year (2005). This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

While there is no international agreement on the allocation of international aviation emissions between nations, these forecasts are on a departures-only basis, to avoid double-counting emissions, and for consistency with DEFRA outturn data. No assessment of CO_2 emissions from arriving international flights at Heathrow is available.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions about *(a)* nitrogen oxides and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions from improved aircraft efficiency she has made in forecasting the environmental impact of the operation of a third runway at Heathrow. [194010]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Projections of future reductions in aircraft emissions are informed by a number of factors including trends in fleet replacement, the certificated emissions performance of aircraft coming into service, aviation industry goals for future emissions reductions, and assumptions about future generations of aircraft. The Heathrow work on NOx has been informed in this area by expert advice from Qinetiq and AEA plc. The broad approach is described in the AEA report 'Emissions Methodology for Future LHR Scenarios', published alongside the recent Heathrow consultation document. This also sets out the aircraft types expected to be operating at Heathrow in future years including, for example, replacements for the Boeing 767 and Airbus A300/310 and A340.

For CO_2 emissions the methodology and assumptions are set out in the UK Air Passenger and CO_2 Report. This can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely impact on greenhouse gas emissions of each option for Heathrow expansion set out in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document. [194035]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow' consultation document published in November 2007 by the Department for Transport reported information on the climate change impacts of the three options considered in the consultation.

Table 17 on page 178 of that document (as follows) sets out the carbon dioxide emission impacts of each option and the total climate change cost, for both the full appraisal period and the average year. The impact of extra in-flight non-carbon emissions is accounted for by uprating the extra in-flight CO_2 emissions by a 'radiative forcing factor' of 1.9 in estimating the total climate change costs of each option.

A detailed explanation of the DfT air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasting methods and results is given in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (November 2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

	Total CO_2 (million tonnes)	*Average CO_2 per year (million tonnes)*	*Total climate change costs (£ billion)*
Option 1—Heathrow third runway around 2020	180.8	2.6[1]	4.8
Option 2—Mixed mode at 480,000 ATMs around 2010, Heathrow third runway 2020	179.1	2.6	4.8
Option 3—MM at 480,000 ATMs around 2010, MM at 540,000 ATMs around 2015, Heathrow third runway around 2020	181.1	2.6	5.0

[1] For appraisal consistency this is expressed over 70 years, although the additional total emissions occur over 60 years. The equivalent figure over 60 years is 3.01 million

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss the likely impact of Heathrow expansion on greenhouse gas emissions. [194036]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend has regular meetings and correspondence with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs across a range of matters and these have in the past included issues relating to Heathrow development, including climate change impacts.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* assumptions, *(b)* methodology and *(c)* evidential basis was of the information given in the consultation document Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport relating to the projected reduction in average road vehicle emissions by 2030. [194041]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The methodology and assumptions underpinning the road traffic modelling are set out in the supporting technical report on surface access, which explains the basis of the travel and traffic forecasts. This can be found on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk). For future reductions in road vehicle emissions, we have used the lower end of DEFRA's forecasts, representing a conservative estimate of the expected emissions improvement in the vehicle fleet, with no allowance for incentives to accelerate the take-up of new standards.

Heathrow Airport: Housing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effect on house prices in south west London resulting from *(a)* building a third runway and *(b)* the end of runway alternation at Heathrow. [194052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment of the impact of additional capacity at Heathrow on house prices has been made. The Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document sets out an Impact Assessment (Annex B), of the options considered in the consultation.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the evidential basis of her projection in Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport of a significant reduction in noise levels per plane was; [193998]

(2) what new aircraft models are assumed to be operating from Heathrow by 2020. [194009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Projections of future reductions in aircraft noise are informed by a number of factors including trends in fleet replacement, the certificated noise performance of aircraft coming into service, aviation industry goals for future noise reductions and assumptions about future generations of aircraft. The Heathrow work has been informed in this area by expert advice from the Civil Aviation Authority and QinetiQ and the approach is described in the CAA Report 0705 "Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport" published alongside the recent Heathrow consultation document. This also sets out the aircraft types expected to be operating at Heathrow in future years including, for example, replacements for the Boeing 767 and Airbus A300/310 andA340.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will launch a second consultation on a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [195277]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Transport White Paper stated the Government's support for the further development of Heathrow, including a third runway and additional terminal capacity, subject to stringent local environmental limits being met. It also said that scope for making greater use of the two existing runways should be explored, subject to the same environmental limits. The recent consultation presented the outcome of our assessment of these options and invited views. We are now reviewing all the consultation responses and will make our final policy decisions later this year based on the full range of evidence including from those most directly affected.

Heathrow Airport: Weather

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential impact of each option for the expansion of

Heathrow set out in Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport on London's weather. [194040]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The effects of further development of Heathrow airport are assessed across a range of impacts including climate change, expressed in terms of additional CO_2 emissions at the global level.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments her Department and its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the period between 1 March 2006 and 29 February 2008 the Department for Transport made payments of £1,604,252 to Ipsos MORI for the following activities:

DVO Operator Survey 2005
VOSA Customer Satisfaction Survey
DVO Operator Survey 2006
Customer Service Review
Unlicensed Driving Survey
Transport Office OCRS
Premium Delivery Service Omnibus—Concept Testing
Driving Tests Candidates Survey 2006
Operators Survey 2006
Online Test Booking Qual and Quant February 2007
Operators Self Service Usability Testing
Stakeholder Survey
Final Report On Unlicensed Driving
Presentation At VOSA Workshop
Follow Up From 2005 Survey, DVLA Local Offices Service Standards
DVLA Local Offices Service Standards—Respondent Travel Expenses.
DVLA Local Office Survey 2006
Stakeholder Perceptions Study and Transport Journalist Survey 2006
Stakeholder Perceptions Study and Transport Journalist Survey 2007
Operator Workshop
Operators Segmentation
Drivers Fitters And Presenters Survey
Survey For Side Swipe Project
Survey—Add Costs—Safety Equipment
Mori Survey—Understanding Operators Research
Research Training
Left Hand Drive Survey Final Part Invoice
MOT Garage Survey
Roadside Check Survey 2007
VOSA Test Station Survey 2007
Key Drivers Analysis
Roadside Check Survey
Test Station Users Survey 2007
Research Audit
Questionnaire Development And Fieldwork Setup
Data And Reporting
Are You Ready? Discussion Groups
Candidates Survey
Potential Driving Instructors (PDI) Survey 2007
Advanced Driving Instructors (ADI) and Trainer Survey
Candidates Survey 2007
Market Research CPC Postal
CPC—Operators Survey

The aforementioned data has been obtained from the Department's various accounting systems and includes a description of the activity undertaken where available from the payment record.

Lorries: Industrial Health and Safety

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the value of the Code of Practice on the safety of loads on vehicles as a source of advice for employers; and what plans she has to update the guidance. [195726]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment of this sort has been made, and there are no plans to update the guidance.

However, we are aware of work by the Transport Research Laboratory and the Freight Transport Association to develop industry guidance on the crash safety of loads in vans, which we will be considering, as findings become available.

Radioactive Wastes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 41-2, on aviation: radioactive materials, to which country or countries the three consignments of radioactive waste which will not require repatriation of radioactive waste to the UK were shipped for treatment; how much radioactive waste was contained in each of these three shipments; what information was provided in each case to the government of the receiving country in respect of the long-term management of the unrepatriated radioactive waste arising; what the countries of origin were of each of the consignments imported into the UK in 2007; and what the countries of destination were of each of the consignments exported from the UK in 2007. [194134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The three consignments were all sent to the USA.

The consignments contained 0.156, 18.2 and 19.8 tonnes each of metallic waste contaminated with radioactive isotopes.

In each case details of the quantities of radioactive waste were provided to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Formal approval to the first shipment in (b) was granted by the State of Tennessee and the NRC granted its formal approval to the second two shipments.

I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 19 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1115-6W, to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers).

Railway Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers used each mainline railway station in 2006-07, ranked in descending order. [195974]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does, however, publish data on station usage which are available from their website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Data for 2006-07 have not yet been published.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports she has received on whether the corner locks were engaged on the containers blown off the trains at Milton Keynes and Tebay on 8 March; and if she will make a statement. [195153]

Mr. Tom Harris: The five empty containers which were blown off a freight train near Tebay and the two empty containers blown off another freight train near Milton Keynes on 1 March 2008 were located on "UIC 517 type" spigots fitted to the freight wagons. Evidence indicates that each container was correctly located on four spigots. The spigots do not have any form of manually operated twist lock as fitted to some other types of rail wagons and road container carriers; instead they have a "mushroom" shaped head designed to provide vertical retention. However, in both incidents, preliminary findings indicate the spigots did not function as intended. The reasons for this and other factors which may have contributed to the incidents are currently under investigation by the RAIB.

Regarding the history of similar incidents, it has been reported to the RAIB that there have not been any previous incidents in the UK since the introduction of the spigots to the UK in the early 1990s. Reports of similar incidents involving containers blowing off trains in continental Europe are emerging but the circumstances of these incidents are not yet clear.

On completion of its investigation, the RAIB's report will be published on its website. During its investigation, urgent safety advice can be issued by the RAIB to the industry in the UK and other member states to bring any safety matter to their attention.

Roads: Accidents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Department has taken to reduce the number of fatal road traffic accidents caused by unqualified and unaccompanied drivers. [195418]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are concerned about vehicles being driven on our roads by drivers who do not have the correct driving entitlement.

This is a matter which we take very seriously and we do all that we can to assist the police and the courts in detecting and prosecuting cases of unlicensed driving.

A critical step has been the provision to the police of 24 hour access to accurate and up to date driver licensing information (including a photograph where appropriate) at the roadside to assist detection and enforcement. There are also good IT links between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the courts to assist in effective prosecution of offenders.

The Department also takes action to reduced road accidents as a whole including through its road safety strategy which targets high risk behaviours, such as anti drink-drive and speeding.

Shipping: Safety

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ships bringing goods into the UK have been impounded because of safety concerns arising from the ship's condition in the last 12 months. [196224]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency detained 86 foreign flagged ships for deficiencies related to safety, pollution prevention or crew living conditions, in the period between March 2007 and February 2008.

Shropshire

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 554W, on Shropshire, if she will provide the equivalent figures for each local council in England. [191754]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Much of this information has already been published on the Department for Transport's website. Tables providing the information requested have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Southern Railway: Rolling Stock

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the decision by Southern Railway to introduce 44 new dual-voltage carriages to the Thameslink service on the future of the Watford to Brighton service. [195653]

Mr. Tom Harris: All newly procured dual-voltage trains will be deployed on the Thameslink route.

From December 2008, journeys between Brighton and Watford, avoiding the London Underground, will still be possible, albeit with a change of trains at Clapham Junction, as happens in the morning peak today.

Tolls

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether her proposed new road tolls will be classed as a tax for the methodological purposes of the Office for National Statistics; [194410]

(2) whether her proposals for new road tolls will be revenue neutral. [194411]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In her written statement to Parliament of 4 March 2008, *Official Report,* columns 106-08WS, the Secretary of State said that Government would be exploring a range of options to manage traffic on motorways where extra capacity is being provided. One of these options is to charge a toll for using one of the lanes. The details of how this could work in practice are currently being developed. It will be for the independent Office for National Statistics to determine how any charges should be classified when the options for charging have been more clearly defined.

Transport: Policy

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the assessment made by her Department of the impact of transport policies on different groups in society for each year since 1998. [191759]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport sponsors a wide range of research and consultation to help us to monitor the effectiveness of our policies. For example, we have recently completed research on the assessment of accessibility standards for disabled people in land based public transport vehicles. This research looks at the effectiveness of accessibility regulations made under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

West Coast Main Line: Repairs and Maintenance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on the refurbishment of the West Coast Main Line. [194780]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government are providing £8.125 billion to renew and upgrade the west coast main line that runs between London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. On completion, this investment will deliver a 30 per cent. increase in capacity, significantly faster journeys such as those from the north west to London falling by around 30 minutes, more frequent trains and a seven day railway.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 2801W, to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell, on child support, how much and what proportion of debt was classed as collectable in each year since the Child Support Agency was established. [193700]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of debt was classed as collectable in each year since the Child Support Agency was established. [193700]

The latest estimate of the amount of debt which is collectable is routinely published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. The attached table shows debt owed by non-resident parents which has been classified as collectable from 1994-95 to 2006-07. It should be noted that it is difficult to use this information to make meaningful comparisons over time as the estimate of the proportion of collectable debt is based on an annual debt analysis exercise that has been gradually refined year on year as the Agency improves its debt collection and enforcement activities.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child maintenance outstanding as reported in the Child Support Agency annual report and accounts

Period	*Collectable (£ million)*	*Gross debt (£ million)*	*Percentage collectable (estimate)*
1994-95	525.20	525.20	—
1995-96	565.78	1,066.87	53.0
1996-97	391.43	1,145.47	34.2
1997-98	585.42	1,426.35	41.0
1998-99	671.91	1,759.91	38.2
1999-2000	625.06	2,064.56	30.3
2000-01	585.52	2,310.39	25.3
2001-02	575.09	2,526.52	22.8
2002-03	752.57	2,755.20	27.3
2003-04	941.72	2,980.69	31.6
2004-05	1,237.33	3,252.75	38.0
2005-06	1,387.69	3,495.25	39.7
2006-07	1,444.10	3,686.26	39.2

Notes:

1. The annual report and accounts for previous years were republished in 1997-98, due to a change in accounting policy in reporting collectability of the debt. The republished figures are included in the table.

2. Figures for 1993-94 are not available, as the Agency did not publish audited accounts during that period.

3. The Agency's current assessment of collectable and uncollectable debt is based on an annual debt analysis exercise. This exercise examines a sample of cases to determine collectability based on the Agency's past experience. It is an estimate and therefore subject to change as the Agency improves its debt collection and enforcement activities.

4. Annual debt analysis exercise introduced from 1995-96.

Child Support Agency: Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances consolatory payments are made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Child Support Agency, *(c)* Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus, *(d)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(e)* the Pension Service, (f) the Rent Service and *(g)* the Debt Management Service; what guidance he issues on the award of consolatory payments in each case; and if he will place a copy of the guidance in the Library. [185932]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the Department's scheme for financial redress can be found in its guide 'Financial Redress for Maladministration' (Revised April 2003). A copy of this guide is kept in the House of Commons Library. It is also available in every DWP office for the general public to read upon request and in the Publications section of the DWP Internet site at http://www.dwp.gov.uk. In addition it is available at main libraries and as a priced document from Corporate Document Services, Publications Orderline, 7 Eastgate, Leeds, LS2 7LY.

A consolatory special payment may be made under the scheme by any of the Department's businesses where it is found that maladministration has had a direct adverse effect on the life of a customer. In line with the parliamentary and Health Service

Ombudsman's 'Principles for Remedy', in deciding the level of compensation regard is had to:

> The impact on the individual, for example whether the events contributed to ill health, or led to prolonged or aggravated injustice or hardship;
>
> The length of time taken to resolve a dispute or complaint; and
>
> The trouble the individual was put to in pursuing the dispute or complaint.

Child Support: Administration

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been of developing the new child support system. [188522]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, what the cost has been of developing the new child support system. [188522]

The Child Support Agency's new IT system (CS2) was provided by Electronic Data Systems (EDS) under the Child Support Reform (CSR) contract for IT services. The Department's administrative accounts confirm charging of £133 million for the delivery and operation of CS2 between January 2003 and August 2005 under the CSR contract. Approximately half of this amount is in recognition of development work.

Since August 2005 EDS have received further payments for development work amounting to £62.01 million.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was outstanding in child maintenance arrears at the Child Support Agency in each of the last 10 years. [185126]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was outstanding in child maintenance arrears at the Child Support Agency in each of the last 10 years. [185126]

The annual gross debt figures for Child Maintenance Arrears are set out in the table below. This information has been published in the Child Support Agency Annual Report & Accounts.

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	3,686.3
2005-06	3,495.3
2004-05	3,252.8
2003-04	3,017.9
2002-03	2,748.0
2001-02	2,526.5
2000-01	2,310.4
1999-2000	2,064.6
1998-99	1,759.9
1997-98	1,426.4

This debt has accrued over the 14 years of the Agency's operation and represents money owed by non-resident parents who have failed to meet their financial responsibilities towards their children.

The Agency's efforts are currently aimed at slowing the rate of growth. The Agency has significantly slowed the rate at which debt accrues from around £20 million a month in 2005/2006 to around £16 million a month in 2006/2007. In total the Agency has collected over £181m in maintenance arrears since April 2006 and continues to make good progress towards meeting the Operational Improvement Plan commitment of collecting an additional £200m in arrears by March 2009 in addition to the £80m it currently collects each year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made towards delivering the commitment to eradicate child poverty in the United Kingdom by 2020. [192823]

Mr. Timms: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

While income alone does not provide a wide enough measure of poverty, it is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. The Government have succeeded in arresting and reversing the rising trend of child poverty with 600,000 children lifted out of relative low income since 1998-99.

A further 300,000 children will be lifted out of relative poverty as a result of last year's Budget and comprehensive spending review. And measures announced in Budget 2008 will lift up to 250,000 additional children out of relative poverty from 2010-11.

The Government believe that work is the most sustainable route out of poverty. The Government are supporting families to escape poverty by increasing employment and raising incomes for those who can work.

In the second Quarter of 2007, there were more than 1 million lone parents in work—335,000 more than in 1997. The lone parent employment rate was 57.2 per cent. up 12.5 percentage points since 1997.

Since 1997, the Government have radically reformed the system of financial support for families. As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system, from April 2010, households with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £4,500 a year better off in real terms.

On 12 March 2008, the Government reaffirmed their commitment to halving child poverty by 2010 and eliminating it by 2020 with the publication of "Ending child poverty: everybody's business". This sets out the Government's long-term strategy for achieving those targets and is available in the Library.

Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to rename council tax benefit as council tax rebate as recommended by Sir Michael Lyons; [194103]

(2) if he will increase the upper savings limit relating to council tax benefit; [194104]

(3) what discussions he has had with Ministerial counterparts on the possibility of paying council tax benefit automatically to those entitled to it; and if he will make a statement. [194105]

Mr. Plaskitt: Renaming council tax benefit to reflect its true nature as a tax rebate might help encourage more people to make a claim for it. But we want to consider this as part of our wider consideration of how the benefit might be better delivered.

We have no current plans to change the upper savings limit for eligibility to council tax benefit. But we keep it under review as we do for the other income-related benefits. Any changes would have to be considered alongside other priorities.

My officials, with their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government and Her Majesty's Treasury, have held numerous discussions about making council tax benefit more accessible and improving take-up by all those entitled to council tax benefit.

Improving take-up among pensioners is our top priority, and people claiming pension credit on the telephone can already access council tax benefit (and housing benefit) during the same phone call. From October 2008, this process will take place without the need for a claim form. The Pension Service will automatically pass the council tax benefit information to the local authority to assess entitlement.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants who were underpaid council tax benefit in 2006-07 have now received their full entitlement for that year. [194670]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183005]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table details the DWP expenditure on advertising, the total expenditure for the Department as published in the departmental Report 2007 and advertising expenditure expressed as a percentage of the total Departmental expenditure:

	Advertising expenditure (£ million)	*Departmental total expenditure (£ million)*	*Advertising costs (percentage)*
2006-07	8.549	7685	0.11
2005-06	6.852	7732	0.09
2004-05	22.821	7731	0.30
2003-04	41.78	7590	0.55
2002-03	6.322	6817	0.09

The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and parts of the Department for Educations and Employment (DfEE) and information prior to this is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

The advertising expenditure figures relate to media buying expenditure only, which forms the bulk of Departmental publicity expenditure, but excludes direct mail, public relations, production and other costs. All figures are exclusive of VAT and do not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost:

spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible

details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses

recruitment or procurement advertising

Jobcentre Plus publicity during 2002 to 2003 as at that time allocations were devolved to individual policy teams within regional budgets.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193441]

Mr. Timms: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179888]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions operate in accordance with the civil service nationality rules. These rules are statutorily based and govern eligibility for employment in the civil service. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187513]

Mrs. McGuire: The average annual cost of sickness pay per member of staff of £916 in 2007 reflects current data on the Department's personnel computer system. This was introduced incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007.

DWP is committed to reducing sickness absence levels. Our approach is to support employees to prevent them falling ill, for example by providing professional stress counselling, and to use qualified occupational health advice to help staff return to work as early as possible when they do take sick leave.

Housing Benefit: Glossop

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact which the transfer of the SK13 postcode area to the North East Greater Manchester locality of the rent service will have on the level of housing benefit paid to people on income support in Glossop. [194687]

Mr. Plaskitt: Housing benefit customers in the SK13 area may be affected by the review of localities when their annual referral to the rent officer is made. This process occurs gradually over the course of a year, depending on when the customer made their original claim for housing benefit. Only those customers who have been in receipt of housing benefit for a continuous period of 52 weeks or more, and who made a claim prior to the introduction of the new locality, will be affected.

The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that (providing there is no change in a customer's circumstances), in the post area of SK13, around 1 per cent. of customers would experience an increase in their benefit entitlement, around 81 per cent. a reduced entitlement and around 18 per cent. would experience no change as a result of the new locality. However, the actual impact is dependent on whether customers break their claim, move into work or move onto the local housing allowance.

As of October 2007 (latest available data), 189 customers in Glossop were on housing benefit and claiming income support. It is not possible to assess the impact of the locality review on this specific group as this information is not held at this level of detail.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have been *(a)* removed from and *(b)* in receipt of incapacity benefit (i) nationally and (ii) in Blaenau Gwent constituency since 2006; [192815]

(2) how many individuals have had their eligibility for receipt of incapacity benefit withdrawn by the incapacity medical board against the advice of such individuals' general practitioners since 2006. [192816]

Mrs. McGuire: Information about the number of individuals who have had their eligibility for receipt of incapacity benefit withdrawn by the incapacity medical board against the advice of such individuals' general practitioners is not available. The available information is in the following tables.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance terminations

	Great Britain		Blaenau Gwent	
	All reasons	*Failed personal capability assessment*	*All reasons*	*Failed personal capability assessment*
February 2006	156,000	22,400	[1]400	—
May 2006	163,000	27,400	[1]300	—
August 2006	168,000	29,900	[1]400	[1]100
November 2006	165,500	29,300	500	[1]200
February 2007	163,900	28,800	[1]400	—
May 2007	127,700	33,700	[1]400	[1]100

'—' Nil or Negligible.

[1] Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

Notes:

1. Terminations are incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claims that have ended.
2. These figures have been updated to include late notified terminations, including terminations for state pension.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total terminations for May 2004 increased by 33 per cent. in the year following their initial release.
4. Due to operational procedures a small number of personal capability assessment terminations appear in 'Other reasons'.
5. Since April 2001 severe disablement allowance has been closed to new claimants.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance case loads

	May 2006	*May 2007*
GB[1]	2,730,000	2,685,320
Blaenau Gwent	7,550	7,150

[1] GB includes a small number of abroad cases.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female lone parents in each region claimed income support in each year since 1997. [194673]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information on the number of male and female lone parents in each region and nation who were in receipt of income support in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

Industrial Health and Safety: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* reported accidents at work and *(b)* received compensation for accidents at work in 2007. [181660]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of accidents at work that led to injury are given in the following table and cover the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. These statistics are derived from RIDDOR- which is the only source of officially 'reported' data, published under National Statistics guidelines. Statistics covering the period from 1 April 2007 (up to 31 March 2008) will not be complete, validated and available until November 2008.

Injuries in Great Britain by severity of injury, reported to all enforcing authorities (HSE, local authorities and the Office of Rail Regulation) 2006-07

	Fatal injuries	*Non-fatal injuries*	*Over 3 day injuries*	*Total injuries*
Employees	185	28,267	113,083	141,535
Self employed	56	1,183	1,139	2,378
Members of public	369	17,483	[2]—	17,852

[1] RIDDOR—The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 1995

[2] Not RIDDOR reportable

As compensation is a matter for the civil courts, HSE does not collect this information. Quarterly figures for work accidents compensated under the industrial injuries scheme can be found on the DWP website, but this does not cover private compensation awards.

Jobcentre Plus: Dismissal

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much compensation has been paid to the 497 staff dismissed for poor attendance by Jobcentre Plus between October 2006 and September 2007; [177834]

(2) what the cost was to Jobcentre Plus of the attendance management procedures, including staff time to issue warnings and investigate grievances, associated with the dismissal of 497 people for unsatisfactory attendance between October 2006 and September 2007; [177835]

(3) what costs Jobcentre Plus incurred in employment tribunals and legal fees arising from the dismissal of 497 individuals for poor attendance between October 2006 and September 2007. [177836]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the compensation and costs associated with the 497 staff in Jobcentre Plus who have been dismissed between October 2006 and September 2007 due to their attendance record. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

You asked how much compensation has been paid to the people in question. This information is not available. Compensation could be payable if poor attendance was the consequence of a medical condition or disability or, with good reason, the employee is not able to return to work. Our management information systems are unable to identify the individual records that would be necessary to establish whether compensation had been paid to any of those affected and if so how much.

You asked what the costs were to Jobcentre Plus of the attendance management procedures involved in these cases. Attendance management is a regular and routine responsibility of all line managers in Jobcentre Plus as part of their performance management responsibilities and is therefore not accounted for separately.

Finally you asked what employment tribunal and legal fees were incurred by Jobcentre Plus arising from the dismissal of the 497 people in question. We are unable to directly attribute employment tribunal costs and legal fees to the 497 people dismissed.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many recipients of jobseekers allowance have refused at least three reasonable job offers in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [193715]

(2) how many of those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance have refused at least one reasonable job offer in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [193716]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Number of individuals referred for varied length jobseeker's allowance sanctions for refusal of employment—1 August 2004 to 31 July 2007

	Number of individuals		
Number of jobs refused	*1 August 2004 to 31 July 2005*	*1 August 2005 to 31 July 2006*	*1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007*
1 or more	15,080	8,640	6,460
3 or more[1]	250	110	310

[1] The figures for three or more jobs refused are included in the figures for one or more jobs refused, therefore the two figures should not be added together.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he intends to answer the letter to his predecessor of 14 January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Timothy Gordon. [192003]

Mrs. McGuire: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to the right hon. Member on 13 March 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he intends to answer the letter to his predecessor of 17 January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Y. Aezal. [192004]

Mrs. McGuire: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to the right hon. Member on 13 March 2008.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer the hon. Member for Peterborough's letter of 4 February 2008 on his constituent Mr. Plummer and his dispute with the Child Support Agency. [194339]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects to answer the Hon. Member for Peterborough's letter of 4th February 2008 on his constituent Mr Plummer and his dispute with the Child Support Agency. [194339]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

National Insurance: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff have been disciplined for inappropriate use of the national insurance number database in each of the last five years. [189293]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not collect information in the format requested. The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many defined benefit occupational pension schemes have wound up since 1997; and how many are in the process of winding up. [191150]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following information was provided by the Pensions Regulator:

Records show that 7,538 defined benefit occupational schemes have a 'wound up' status with an effective date of 1 January 1997 or later.

Records show that 1,114 defined benefit schemes have a 'winding up' status.

Notes:

1. Data supplied by the Pensions Regulator is current as at 3 March 2008.
2. A scheme with 'wound up' status is one which has notified the Pensions Regulator that it has completed winding up procedures.
3. A scheme with 'winding up' status is one which has notified the Pensions Regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.

Pensioners

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have on retirement private savings and still be eligible for council tax benefit in each year until 2050; and what average amount of savings he estimates such pensioners will have; [185130]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of people who will be entitled to the basic state pension in each year until 2050; [185092]

(3) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of women over state pension age who will not be entitled to the full basic state pension in each year until 2050; [185094]

(4) what his estimate is of the cost of paying housing benefit to people over the state pension age in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive housing benefit in each of those years; [185114]

(5) what his estimate is of the cost of paying council tax benefit to people over the state pension age in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive council tax benefit in each of those years; [185115]

(6) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who on retirement will have access to private savings in each year until 2050; and what his estimate is of the average amount of savings such pensioners will have; [185116]

(7) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have *(a)* an occupational pension scheme in payment and *(b)* a private pension scheme in payment in each year until 2050; and what his estimate is of the average weekly sum pensioners will receive from each type of scheme; [185131]

(8) what his estimate is of the cost of paying the savings credit element of pension credit in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive savings credit in each of those years; [185097]

(9) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have on retirement private savings and still be eligible for the guarantee credit element of pension credit in each year until 2050; and what average amount of savings he estimates such pensioners will have; [185117]

(10) what his estimate is of the cost of paying the guarantee credit element of pension credit in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive guarantee credit in each of those years; [185098]

(11) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have on retirement private savings and still be eligible for the savings credit element of pension credit in each year until 2050; and what average amount of savings he estimates such pensioners will have; [185118]

(12) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have on retirement private savings and still be eligible for housing benefit in each year until 2050; and what average amount of savings he estimates such pensioners will have; [185129]

(13) what his estimate is of the cost of paying state second pension entitlements in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive payments in each of those years; [185095]

(14) what his estimate is of the cost of paying state earnings related pension entitlements in each year until 2050; and how many and what proportion of pensioners he estimates will receive payments in each of those years. [185096]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information available has been placed in the Library.

Pensions: Northern Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the policy areas covered by the draft statutory instruments relating to occupational pension schemes and the Pension Protection Fund, considered in the Second Delegated Legislation Committee on 17 March 2008, in so far as they relate to Northern Ireland, are matters for the Northern Ireland Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [195795]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Social security and pensions are transferred matters under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Section 323 (Extent) of the Pensions Act 2004 therefore sets out which provisions of the Act apply in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Section 323(2)(b) lists those provisions relating to part 2 (the Board of the Pension Protection Fund) which extend to Northern Ireland.

The draft Pension Protection Fund (Pension Compensation Cap) Order 2008, the draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the draft Occupational Pension Scheme (Levy Ceiling) Order 2008, considered in the Second Delegated Legislation Committee on 17 March 2008, do not fall under any of these provisions and therefore apply to Great Britain only.

I understand that the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland proposes to make corresponding statutory rules for Northern Ireland.

Social Fund

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of payments made from the social fund were made to people who were awaiting the outcome of benefit applications in the last five years; and what consideration his Department has given to the idea of introducing advance payments for people awaiting the outcome of benefit applications. [190309]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what percentage of payments made from the Social Fund were made to people who were awaiting the outcome of benefit applications in the last five years: and what consideration the Department has given to the idea of introducing advance payments for people awaiting the outcome of benefit applications. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information on the percentage of payments made from the Social Fund made to people who were awaiting the outcome of benefit applications is not available.

With reference to what consideration the Department has given to the idea of introducing advance payments for people awaiting the outcome of benefit applications, Jobcentre Plus have recently completed a full investigation into the feasibility of introducing Advance Payments. This concluded it would require substantial changes in primary legislation and major IT changes therefore making it unfeasible.

Our aim is to ensure that benefit applications are processed efficiently. We continue to make interim payments available to those customers who have an underlying entitlement to benefit but are experiencing delay in payment of that benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the distribution by income decile of the expenditure arising from *(a)* carer's allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* disability living allowance, *(d)* incapacity benefit, *(e)* income support and *(f)* winter fuel allowance in each year since 1997. [186979]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available for winter fuel payments. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost was of running the Fraud Investigation Service in the financial year 2006-07. [180977]

Mr. Plaskitt: The budget for the Fraud Investigation Service in the financial year 2006-07 was £106.8 million, of which £93.6 million represents staffing costs. As at April 2007, there were 2,926 people employed by the Fraud Investigation Service.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 574W, on social security benefits: personal records, (1) what percentage of successful applicants have their criminal records checked; [181268]

(2) how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; [181269]

(3) whether all those with access to the entire database have had their criminal records checked; [181270]

(4) how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; [181271]

(5) whether the selection of successful candidates who will undergo a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [181272]

Mrs. McGuire: Prior to April 2007, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, all prospective candidates for employment in the Department were required to complete a declaration in which they had to state whether they had any convictions for offences which were unspent (within the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act). Additionally, criminal records checks were carried out where employees were appointed to sensitive posts.

Since April 2007 all successful candidates for posts have been subject, prior to appointment, to an additional random 10 per cent. check of their criminal record declarations.

Between April 2007, and 31 December 2007, 567 candidates had their criminal records checked in this way. These checks revealed that seven candidates had a criminal record. Following the completion of these checks, decisions on whether or not to appoint were made on a case-by-case basis and, after careful consideration, it was decided that, in two of these cases, the candidate's appointment should be confirmed.

In the light of this experience, my Department has decided to implement criminal record checks of all successful candidates for posts. This will be introduced on a phased basis.

No centrally held information is available on the number of employees whose criminal records were checked for the nine years prior to April 2007, and it would be disproportionately expensive to obtain this information.

Social Security Benefits: Post Office Card Account

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on social security benefits: post office card account, what the administrative cost of paying benefits into post office card accounts, excluding start-up costs or investment in delivery systems, was in the last 12 months for which information is available. [194671]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administrative cost to DWP of paying benefits into a Post Office card account, excluding start-up costs or investment in delivery systems from April 2006 to March 2007 was £152 million. HM Revenue and Social Security Agency, Northern Ireland also have contracts with Post Office for payments they make into a Post Office card account.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on social security benefits: post office card account, what the average transaction cost was of each benefit payment into a *(a)* bank account and *(b)* post office card account in the last 12 months for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [194672]

Mr. Plaskitt: Currently, the average transaction cost of each benefit payment into *(a)* a bank account is around 1p and *(b)* into a Post Office card account is around 80p.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of uprating the basic state pension on the basis of average earnings in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2015; and if he will make a statement. [192118]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Current baseline projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012. The net additional cost of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2010-11 or 2015-16 is given in the following table.

	Net additional cost (£ billion, 2007-08 prices) of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from:	
Net additional annual cost	*2010-11*	*2015-16*
2010-11	0.8	0.0
2011-12	1.5	0.0
2012-13	1.6	-0.7
2013-14	1.6	-1.5
2014-15	1.7	-2.3
2015-16	1.7	-2.4
2016-17	1.8	-2.5
2017-18	1.8	-2.5
2018-19	1.9	-2.6
2019-20	1.9	-2.7
2020-21	2.0	-2.8
2030-31	3.0	-4.2
2040-41	4.2	-5.9
2050-51	5.4	-7.6

Notes:

1. Estimates are additional to the baseline assumption of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2012. During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.
2. Estimates are presented in net terms reflecting that the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments have been estimated using the Department's policy simulation model and are assumed to remain constant over time.
3. In the financial years up to and including 2013-14 Treasury economic assumptions consistent with Budget 2008 have been used to model earnings uprating. After this point a long term earnings growth assumption of 4.93 per cent. has been applied.
4. Estimates are in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.

Source:
DWP modelling

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Expenditure

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total annual revenue support was for English *(a)* academy schools and *(b)* community schools in each year since 2003-04; and what the average spend per pupil was in English (i) academy schools and (ii) community schools in each year. [189200]

Jim Knight: The Department aims to provide academies with funding for running costs that is equivalent to other state-funded schools in similar circumstances in their local authority. Achieving equivalence requires the Department to make certain adjustments, for example, to reflect a phased intake of pupils, or VAT status. In addition, academies are funded to buy services that local authorities would normally provide to other schools free of charge, such as education welfare services.

The National Audit Office's report, "The Academies Programme" (HC 254 Session 2006-07, 23 February 2007), examined the Department's formula for calculating ongoing funding and found that it should achieve the intended equivalence. The following table showing the average per pupil funding of academies and maintained community secondary schools in local authorities with academies supports this conclusion.

Financial year	*Average per pupil funding in academies*[1]	*Average school-based expenditure per pupil in maintained community secondary schools in local authorities with academies*
2003-04	4,294	4,064
2004-05	4,469	4,241
2005-06	4,203	4,538
2006-07	4,600	4,684
2007-08	4,927	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Excludes elements paid to academies to compensate for increased costs (start-up grant; VAT grant; earmarked additional grants; and local authority central spend equivalent grant).

Detailed figures underlying this summary chart and figures for the total annual revenue support are given in the following tables.

Academies recurrent funding since 2003-04 is detailed as follows:

£

Financial year	*General annual grant*	*Per pupil*	*Per pupil excluding elements paid to compensate for increased costs*[1]
2003-04	41,804,995	5,494	4,294
2004-05	79,377,129	5,719	4,469
2005-06	124,499,175	5,378	4,203
2006-07	224,666,333	5,851	4,600
2007-08	419,537,199	6,344	4,927

[1] Excluded items are start-up grant; VAT grant; earmarked additional grants; and local authority central spend equivalent grant.

Source:

DCSF Academies Finance Team.

The total budget share plus grants allocated to local authority maintained community schools in England for the same period is as follows:

£

Financial year	*All maintained community primary and secondary schools*	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*
2003-04	13,960,041,189	7,326,030,460	6,634,010,729
2004-05	14,927,931,328	7,783,669,670	7,144,261,658
2005-06	16,008,881,739	8,299,829,004	7,709,052,735
2006-07	17,239,187,788	8,911,383,908	8,327,803,881
2007-08	18,350,103,224	9,454,159,041	8,895,944,183

Source:

The financial data are drawn from the local authorities section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DCSF (formerly DfES). 2007-08 figures remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

The equivalent figures for community schools in local authorities with academies in them are as follows:

£

Financial year	*Total allocated to maintained community schools in local authorities with academies*	*Total allocated to primary schools in local authorities with academies*	*Total allocated to secondary schools in local authorities with academies*
2003-04	807,575,613	501,696,830	305,878,783
2004-05	1,287,638,250	822,334,818	465,303,432
2005-06	2,420,022,310	1,473,286,639	946,735,671
2006-07	3,868,183,901	2,282,162,424	1,586,021,477
2007-08	5,511,564,851	3,216,446,978	2,295,117,872

Source:

The financial data are drawn from the local authorities section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DCSF (formerly DfES). 2007-08 figures remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

School-based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained community schools is as follows (cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 11 March 2008).

Financial year	*All maintained community primary and secondary schools*	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*	*Community schools within LAs with academies*	*Primary schools within LAs with academies*	*Secondary schools within LAs with academies*
						£
2003-04	3,172	2,661	3,547	3,517	2,915	4,064
2004-05	3,255	2,837	3,819	3,465	3,106	4,241
2005-06	3,517	3,078	4,109	3,714	3,296	4,538
2006-07	3,738	3,282	4,365	3,877	3,448	4,684

Notes:

1. School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF schools census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

2. Figures for secondary schools include any LSC funding and LSC pupils for schools with sixth forms.

3. The figures for "community schools within LAs with academies" includes the average school-based expenditure per pupil for all maintained community primary and secondary schools within those local authorities which also had academies during the financial year.

Source:

The financial data are drawn from the local authorities section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DCSF (formerly DfES). 2006-07 figures remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of families which have deliberately reduced their income so that children become eligible for education maintenance allowance in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [194192]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has no evidence that any household has deliberately reduced their income so that their children become eligible for education maintenance allowance.

English Language: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were not entered for *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* English and mathematics GCSEs in 2007. [195195]

Jim Knight: In 2007 there were 44,101 (7 per cent.) pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who did not attempt English and mathematics at GCSE. Tables showing pupil numbers (table 1) and number of attempts at GCSE by subject (tables 10-12) can be found in the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

These figures are based on pupils attempting full course GCSEs in all schools, however, in some independent schools pupils attempt International GCSEs in English and mathematics instead but these are not included here as they have not been accredited by QCA or approved by the Secretary of State.

Faith Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of maintained schools use religious faith as a criterion for admission; and if he will make a statement. [194662]

Jim Knight: There are 6,800 maintained faith schools out of a total of 20,504 maintained schools in England. Faith schools do not have to necessarily use faith-based oversubscription criteria as part of their admission arrangements, and if they are undersubscribed they must offer places to all parents who apply. This is a matter for admission authorities to determine and we, therefore, do not hold this information centrally.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils sat more than 10 GCSEs in 2007; [195198]

(2) how many pupils were entered for less than five GCSEs in 2007. [195194]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils who sat more than 10 GCSEs at the end of key stage 4 in 2007 is 17,040.

The number of pupils who were entered for less than five GCSEs or equivalent at the end of key stage 4 in 2007 is 36,620.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [195271]

(2) how many pupils achieved five GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195272]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Number and percentage of pupils achieving (i) 5 GCSEs at grades A-C and (ii) 5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths: 1997[1] to 2007[2]*

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Numbers											
Achieving 5 A-C grades*											
Jarrow constituency	373	357	395	378	447	451	430	466	496	552	653
South Tyneside LA	668	672	728	723	789	903	894	912	997	1,110	1,242
North East	11,492	11,279	12,056	12,694	13,525	14,061	14,985	15,798	16,587	18,154	19,707
England	228,646	231,222	243,870	250,936	265,498	276,239	292,438	307,046	319,481	339,289	359,599
Achieving 5 A-C grades including English and Mathematics*											
Jarrow constituency	281	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	334	406	470
South Tyneside LA	511	561	591	607	653	733	696	701	662	791	878
North East	8,758	8,642	9,433	10,026	10,684	11,030	11,125	11,584	11,785	12,779	13,607
England	174,990	179,493	191,800	199,147	211,245	220,463	225,963	238,463	247,860	260,608	274,735
Percentages											
Achieving 5 A-C grades*											
Jarrow constituency	38.8	38.1	41.5	39.9	42.3	42.7	40.6	45.3	52.4	55.9	60.4
South Tyneside LA	35.7	36.9	39.9	39.3	39.1	42.2	43.5	45.1	51.6	55.6	59.3

Number and percentage of pupils achieving (i) 5 GCSEs at grades A-C and (ii) 5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths: 1997[1] to 2007[2]*

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	36.8	37.1	39.4	41.7	42.5	44.3	46.8	48.7	53.5	57.3	60.5
England	42.5	43.8	45.7	47.0	47.9	49.5	51.1	52.0	54.8	57.2	60.1
Achieving 5 A-C grades including English and Mathematics*											
Jarrow constituency	29.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35.3	41.1	43.5
South Tyneside LA	27.3	30.8	32.4	33.0	32.3	34.2	33.9	34.7	34.2	39.6	41.9
North East	28.0	28.4	30.8	32.9	33.6	34.8	34.7	35.7	38.0	40.3	41.8
England	32.5	34.0	39.4	37.3	38.1	39.5	42.8	40.4	46.7	43.9	45.9

[1] Figures for 1997 to 2006 are based upon 15-year-olds.
[2] Figures for 2007 are based upon pupils at the end of key stage 4.
Note:
n/a = not available

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who did not obtain five A*- C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics did not go on to further education in the latest period for which figures are available. [195328]

Jim Knight: The Youth Cohort Study is able to provide estimates for pupils who took GCSEs in 2003, the latest data available. Of those who did not obtain five GCSE A*-C grades including Mathematics and English, approximately 44 per cent. did not continue in full time education after finishing Year 11. However, some of these would have gone into other forms of education or training such as Government Supported Training or part time education.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to increase the number of young people in Coventry achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE. [195179]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the progress made in improved GCSE results in Coventry schools, compared with national aggregates, since 1997.

	1997		*2007*	
	5A-C*	*5A*-C including English and maths*	*5A*-C*	*5A*-C including English and maths*
England	45.1	35.6	60.8	46.0
Coventry	36.9	27.1	52.3	38.7

The general rise in secondary standards may be attributed to improvements in teaching and learning, better school leadership, targeted intervention to tackle school failure, better use of pupil performance data and the ambitious targets schools and local authorities have set for their pupils. Challenge and support through the National Secondary Strategy has also had a substantial recent impact.

As part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget for 2008, the Government have now committed a new £200 million package, over the next three years, for a National Challenge to raise standards in secondary schools, with particular focus on those schools where less than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics. The National Challenge programme will provide intensive support for the most vulnerable secondary schools, and will empower many head teachers of strong schools to help turn around other schools that are unable to raise low attainment. The programme will help create new trusts and federations based on successful schools; and, in areas of greatest need, drive forward a faster expansion of the academies programme.

The National Challenge is a strategy for all schools to learn from each other and will therefore help all secondary pupils to progress to the best of their abilities.

Home Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of children of compulsory school age who are home educated. [194688]

Jim Knight: We do not intend to collect information on the number of children of compulsory school age who are home educated.

Literacy: Primary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance and information on the teaching of literacy his Department sends or makes available to maintained primary schools. [195652]

Jim Knight: Guidance and information for maintained Primary schools for the teaching of literacy is available through the Primary National Strategy and Primary Framework. This covers:

Early Reading (which includes phonics and the "simple view of reading" and Every Child a Reader)

Learning objectives for speaking and listening, reading, writing Assessment

Planning (which includes support for intervention through Early Literacy Support, Year 3 Literacy Support and Further Literacy Support)

All materials are available for download on

www.standards.dcsf.gsi.gov.uk/primaryframework.

Hard copies of the Primary Framework and the Letters and Sounds phonics materials have been sent to all maintained primary schools and have been placed in the House Libraries.

The Primary National Strategy also provides continuing professional development in literacy and exemplification of good practice (through DVDs for instance). Every local authority has a literacy consultant to provide CPD for all and work specifically with targeted schools.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his Department's press release of 14 March on progress in teaching phonics, if he will place in the Library a copy of Sir Jim Rose's letter on phonics teaching in schools. [195637]

Jim Knight: I have arranged for a copy of Sir Jim Rose's letter to be placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Jim Rose, dated 13 March 2008:

When the Independent Review of the Teaching of Early Reading was published the Secretary of State at the time asked me to report on how well the recommendations were being implemented. This letter is my response. It is based on a series of visits to schools, discussions with local authorities and attendance at Primary National Strategy training events.

It is an obvious truth that if world class reading standards are to be achieved then world class teaching must be provided. The indications are that good progress has been made in raising the quality of teaching for beginner readers such that the leading edge work in our schools is excellent by any standard. It is also clear that schools are responding very positively to the first recommendation of the Review: to strengthen children's speaking and listening skills as important in their own right, and as a basis for reading and writing.

Following acceptance of the review recommendations the National Curriculum has been amended and the Primary Literacy Framework has been renewed so that high quality phonic work is the prime approach to teaching reading. A Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) programme has been developed to improve the teaching of phonics, and a free phonics teaching resource, 'Letters and Sounds', has been produced. In addition, the new Early Years Foundation Stage will reflect the Review's recommendations. I have kept closely in touch with these developments.

Overall, the message is positive, and schools are reporting that many children are making faster progress in learning how to read and to spell than was previously the case. As a broad estimate, at least three-quarters of our primary schools are implementing phonic work as recommended by the review. However, as might be expected, there is considerable variation in the quality of teaching and children's progress as schools come to terms with implementing the recommendations from different starting points.

High quality, systematic teaching of decoding and encoding skills, ie phonic work, is a key factor in securing children's progress in reading and writing. Notable features of success which underpin such teaching include:

Opportunities for professional development and consistency of message—all those responsible for the briefing and training to settings and schools were themselves trained and fully conversant with the Review's recommendations.

Linking principles to practice—the "simple view of reading" is the rationale recommended by the Review which enabled the training to make clear why it is important to teach high quality phonic work and how to teach it.

Coaching and feedback—teachers reported the value of observing their own class being taught word recognition skills expertly by a National Strategies consultant. They also valued opportunities for feedback on the quality of their own teaching, and for coaching on points which called for improvement.

Robust leadership—as ever, the best teaching was where head teachers were fully committed and pressed relentlessly for a consistent, school wide approach.

Lead teachers—having teachers who, irrespective of their job titles, took a strong lead, were knowledgeable in the teaching of reading, to whom others could turn for advice and support.

Teaching assistants—who had received thorough training and were able to support teachers, and help children with their reading.

Teachers as ambassadors—in implementing the recommendations on the teaching of reading teachers drew considerable professional satisfaction from their success and especially that of the children. They were willing advocates of the approach to a wider audience.

Although much excellent progress in the teaching of early reading and writing is evident, I do not believe we have yet reached the point where such teaching is the norm for all children. For example, not all settings and schools are yet self-sustaining in teaching phonic knowledge and skills essential for reading and making sure that children apply these skills to comprehend what they read. This strongly suggests that in-service support for serving teachers, practitioners and teaching assistants should continue to focus on phonics in the context of a broad and language rich curriculum. It would also be prudent to keep the various forms of initial teacher training under review to ensure that trainee teachers are well prepared to teach reading effectively.

These issues are being addressed through the CLLD programme and other initiatives. I hope to comment further on the standards and quality of teaching reading in the review of the primary curriculum which you have asked me to undertake.

Primary Education: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary schools were judged to be satisfactory by Ofsted at their most recent inspection. [192667]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 March 2008:

Parliamentary question number 192667: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many primary schools were judged to be satisfactory by Ofsted at their most recent inspection?

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

As of 7 March 2008, there are 17208 primary schools, including middle-deemed primary schools. Of these, 16928 have had at least one inspection with an overall effectiveness grade. For 13254 of these, the latest inspection was carried out under the current inspection framework, in use since September 2005, and for the remaining 3674 the latest inspection was carried out under the previous inspection framework.

Of the 13254 inspected under the current framework, which uses a four point scale, 4651 were judged to be satisfactory. Of the 3674 inspected under the previous framework, which used a seven point scale, 1108 were judged to be satisfactory.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Some schools judged good under the previous inspection framework would now be judged satisfactory. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance. Inspectors do not make reference to, or comparisons with, the previous inspection framework.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupil Referral Units: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in a pupil referral unit obtained a GCSE in 2007. [195329]

Jim Knight: There were 3,421 15-year-old pupils in pupil referral units who gained a qualification in 2007. This is 54.5 per cent. of the total of 6,280 15-year-old pupils. These figures include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of maintained schools selected a portion of their intake by aptitude in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [194661]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data on selection by aptitude. Schools with a specialism may select up to 10 per cent. of their intake by aptitude in modern foreign languages, performing or visual arts, or physical education, and where they did so before 2007, technology and information technology.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider bringing forward proposals *(a)* to require head teachers to sign statutory declarations to confirm compliance with the Schools Admissions Code and *(b)* to impose fines on (i) headteachers and (ii) schools for serious breaches of the Code. [195704]

Jim Knight: Responsibility for ensuring that schools comply with the School Admissions Code and admissions legislation rests with local authorities and the governing bodies (rather than head teachers) of own admission authority schools. All admission authorities are required to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code and we announced to Parliament on 17 March further steps to ensure the proper implementation of the Code so that no parent or child is disadvantaged by unfair admission arrangements.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider placing the conduct of schools admissions under the supervision of an independent body; and if he will make a statement. [195709]

Jim Knight: We are committed to ensuring compliance with the school admissions code and admissions legislation, and that admission authorities set fair and lawful admission arrangements. I wrote in January to all admission authorities to emphasise this and remind local authorities and admission forums to challenge unfair or unlawful policies.

As announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007, we are reviewing the school application and allocation process and are considering how admissions should be managed as part of that review. We will consult on a range of proposals as a result of this review to further strengthen the admissions system in the summer.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [195232]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates capital to local authorities and schools, and then relies on the local community to prioritise how it is spent between primary and secondary school buildings. Accordingly, it does not maintain central records on how much capital has been allocated between the two.

The following table sets out capital allocations from the Department to (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the north-east and (iii) England in each year since 1997.

Figures are not available centrally for allocations to Jarrow constituency, as allocations are made on a local authority basis.

£ million

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South Tyneside -	1.5	2.5	3.4	5.7	4.8	9.2	6.6	21.9	169.1	4.4	4.6
North-east	34.6	53.0	79.5	116.0	182.7	170.5	226.7	193.5	684.0	1,896.5	2,466.6
England	800	1,062	1,437	2,269	2,409	3,484	4,144	4,861	5,262	4,984	6,420

Notes:

1. The amounts spent will, in any year, differ from departmental allocations. This is because of expenditure timing differences, local prioritisation, and other resources that may be available locally.
2. The South Tyneside figure of £21.9 million in 2004-05 includes a £15.8 million PFI allocation, and the South Tyneside allocation of £169.1 million in 2005-06 a Building Schools for the Future allocation of £164 million.
3. The figures include indicative allocations, conventional and PFI credits, for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. As projects develop, allocations will be subject to change. Actual BSF expenditure will be spread over a number of years.
4. The figures for England are taken from departmental annual reports and published figures, with the addition of PFI credits. The England figures for 2006-07and 2007-08 are subject to change.

Schools: Closures

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been closed after either being placed in special measures or given notice to improve since 1997. [195322]

Jim Knight: Since 1997, 264 schools have been closed after being placed in special measures; and 14 schools have closed after being judged in need of significant improvement (also known as "notice to improve") since that category was introduced in 2005.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to the fitting of fire suppression systems in schools in each of the last five years. [195157]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information centrally on the amount allocated by local authorities and schools on fire suppression systems in schools in each of the last five years. Allocations are prioritised locally in accordance with asset management plans.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether local authorities will be expected to show evidence that his Department's guidance document Designing and Managing Against the Risk of Fire in Schools (BB100) has been complied with and the conclusions of the accompanying risk assessment followed in any application for funding under the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes; [194228]

(2) whether funding for new school buildings and major refurbishments under the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes is contingent on compliance by local authorities with his Department's guidance document Designing and Managing Against the Risk of Fire in Schools (BB100) and the accompanying risk assessment tool; and if he will make a statement. [194229]

Jim Knight: Building Bulletins, among them BB100, are guidance documents and local authorities are responsible for compliance.

It is our expectation that all new and some refurbished schools will have fire sprinklers installed, however this is not a compulsory measure. There may be cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, in case of challenge they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are very low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

Compliance with the Building Regulations for Fire is covered by Building Bulletin 100 and all designs must meet the life-safety requirements set out there. These life-safety requirements are enforced by Building Control Bodies. Sprinkler systems classed as life-safety systems and any trade-off of the fire requirements for life-safety that are allowed by BB100, for buildings fitted with sprinkler systems, will need to be checked in detail by the Building Control Body.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the key findings of Research Brief DCSF-RB020 of January 2008 on Secondary School Admissions in respect of admissions policies and segregated intakes. [195733]

Jim Knight: We are considering the key findings and recommendations of this research as part of our wider review of the admissions system, which we announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007. We will consult on proposals coming out of this review this summer.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing survey figures for 2007; and if he will make a statement. [195109]

Jim Knight: Results from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007 are expected to be published in May 2008.

The survey was carried out by the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) on behalf of the Department. It is a sample survey where the data requires detailed analysis to ensure that the results are as representative of the population as possible and provide reliable comparisons to the previous survey in 2002. This work is ongoing and has taken longer than anticipated, resulting in a delay to the publication of the final report.

Secondary Education: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* diplomas, *(b)* GCSEs and *(c)* A-levels, by subject, each maintained secondary school and college will be obliged to offer to all students by (i) 2010, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2015. [194844]

Jim Knight: The new secondary curriculum and the 14 to 19 diplomas share the same core aims and care has been taken to ensure that approaches to teaching and learning are directly aligned. In both cases, there is an emphasis on learner choice and on locally-designed curricula that will meet the needs of students and their community. The GCSE criteria have also been revised recently to be consistent with the secondary curriculum.

There will be a phased build up of the diplomas, with 14 diplomas being taught at all three levels from September 2010.

By 2011, a full suite of 17 diplomas at all three levels will be available. From 2013 there will be a national entitlement to the first 14 diplomas which will place a duty on local authorities and the LSC to ensure young people have access to a diploma. We are considering how the entitlement should be extended to the three new diplomas announced in October 2007.

We do not expect any single institution to offer all diplomas. Rather, diplomas will be taught by consortiums of schools, colleges, and work-based learning providers, working in partnership with the local authority and employers. Schools and colleges are free to offer the GCSEs and A-levels they think are appropriate for their students, but at key stage 4 must offer the national curriculum programmes of study for English, mathematics; ICT, physical education and citizenship. They must also offer pupils a course of study in science that covers the programme of study and leads to at least two science GCSEs.

They must also teach religious education; sex education; careers education; and work-related learning and they must ensure that all pupils are able to follow a course of study within each of four entitlement areas: the arts, design and technology, humanities and modern foreign languages. There are no plans to change this position, but we have committed to reviewing the future of GCSEs and A-levels in 2013 in the light of experience of diplomas.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to raise standards in secondary schools. [194346]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 258W.

As part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget for 2008, the Government have committed a new £200 million package, over the next three years, for the National Challenge to raise standards in secondary schools—with a particular focus on those schools whose pupils are low attaining at GCSE. The National Challenge programme will empower more of the best head teachers to help turn around schools which are unable to raise low attainment; create new trusts and federations based on successful schools; and, in areas of greatest need, drive forward a faster expansion of the academies programme.

This new programme to raise standards is a strategy for all schools to learn from each other and will therefore help all pupils to progress to the best of their abilities.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* academies, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* trust schools have not joined a consortium with other schools and colleges to provide diplomas; [189034]

(2) how many academies he expects to offer the full range of diplomas from *(a)* September 2008 and *(b)* September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [189032]

Jim Knight: Applications for the first consortia were received in December 2006 when there were only 46 open academies. In March 2007, 18 academies were in consortia approved for the delivery of the first diplomas from September 2008. This equates to 39 per cent. of academies open at that time. There are currently 83 academies open. 60 academies are in consortia that have submitted applications for delivery of the second wave of diplomas from September 2009—14 of which are already in consortia for the first wave of diplomas. This means that a total of 64 academies are in consortia that have been approved or are currently under consideration. In addition, one city technology college that is converting to academy status is in a proposed consortium for diplomas to be delivered from 2009. Successful consortia for the delivery of diplomas will be announced in the near future.

Of the 37 schools which had acquired trust school status under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as at 29 February 2008, 22 cater for pupils aged 14 and above. Of these 22 schools, 12 are in consortia approved through the Gateway process to deliver the first diplomas in September 2008. This equates to 54 per cent. of this group. A further seven of the 22 schools are in consortia which have applied to deliver the second line of diplomas from September 2009 and are awaiting decisions.

For information relating to independent schools, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his question 189033, on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2156W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools and colleges will be permitted not to offer certain diplomas if low take-up makes them unviable; and if he will make a statement. [194846]

Jim Knight: We do not expect any single institution to offer all Diplomas. Rather, Diplomas will be taught by consortia of schools, colleges, and work-based learning providers, working in partnership with the local authority, employers, and higher education institutions. Individual institutions are under no obligation to offer a particular Diploma.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of likely diploma take-up in each year between 2008 and 2020; and if he will make a statement. [194847]

Jim Knight: Schools and colleges are asked to provide estimates of Diploma take-up as part of the Diploma Gateway Process. Based on initial consortia estimates submitted to the first Diploma Gateway in November 2006, up to around 39,000 places were approved for delivery in September 2008. Young people are currently making their choices for this September. The results of the second Diploma Gateway process are due to be published on 19 March 2008, which will provide us with consortia predictions for 2009.

In the longer term, our initial modelling suggests that around one in four 14 to 19-year-old learners will be undertaking one of the first 14 Diplomas from September 2013. This is not a target, but a working model to help with planning towards the introduction of the national entitlement. The modelling does not yet go beyond 2013.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many diplomas will be offered from *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2015; what (i) levels and (ii) subjects will be available; and if he will make a statement. [194862]

Jim Knight: We are making good progress on diploma design and delivery to prepare schools and colleges to teach these new qualifications from September 2008. Diplomas offer a clear suite of national qualifications covering a wide range of disciplines and sectors of the economy. They will be available at three levels (foundation, higher and advanced) to offer all young people the right choice.

There will be a phased build up of the diplomas, with 14 diplomas being taught at all three levels from September 2010.

By 2011, a full suite of 17 diplomas at all three levels will be available. The full suite of 17 diplomas will continue to be offered from 2013 and beyond.

The extended diploma will also be available in all 17 lines of learning, and at all three levels. It will be available for first teaching from 2011.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect he expects the introduction of the diploma to have on the proportion of students obtaining five A*-C GCSEs or their equivalent; and if he will make a statement. [194863]

Jim Knight: The introduction of diplomas will help to engage more young people in learning, transform standards in the basics and in the wider skills for employability, and enable young people to be taking qualifications that have a real standing with employers and support their progression into further and higher education to gain higher level skills. Our ambition is that the diplomas, along with our other 14 to 19 reforms, will enable more young people to achieve year on year and secure qualifications that will enable them to progress and lead rewarding lives. As diplomas increasingly become available over the next few years, more young people will choose to study them and students who achieve the higher diploma (level 2) will count against the five A*-C GCSE indicator in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level equivalent is of each diploma and level; and if he will make a statement. [194864]

Jim Knight: The QCA has calculated performance points for diplomas so that they can be given an equivalence in the School and College Achievement and Attainment tables. The Foundation Diploma is equivalent to five GCSEs at level 1 (grades D-G); the Higher Diploma is equivalent to seven GCSEs at level 2 (grades A*-C); the Progression Diploma is equivalent to 2.5 A-levels (and attracts 300 UCAS points); and the Advanced Diploma is equivalent to 3.5 A-levels (and attracts 420 UCAS points).

The Extended Diploma will be equivalent to 4.5 A-levels.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much guided learning time will be required to teach *(a)* a diploma to Level 2 and *(b)* seven GCSEs; and if he will make a statement. [194865]

Jim Knight: The higher diploma (level 2) will require 800 guided learning hours and can be delivered in one or two years if taken on its own or in two years if taken at the same time as the key stage 4 national curriculum programme of study. GCSEs are placed in size bands, which are ranges of guided learning hours. A range of between 595 and 684 guided learning hours will be necessary to teach seven GCSEs.

The figure for the higher diploma includes 140 guided learning hours for personal learning and thinking skills and functional skills. At key stage 4, this element will be delivered in any case across the curriculum, meaning that in the context of this key stage the higher diploma teaching requirement is within the range for seven GCSEs. The larger figure reflects the fact that the higher diploma will also be taught in other contexts.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the ability of schools and colleges to deliver 17 diplomas at three levels alongside GCSEs and A-levels; and if he will make a statement. [194866]

Jim Knight: We do not expect any single institution to offer all diplomas. Rather, diplomas will be taught by consortia of schools, colleges, and work-based learning providers, working in partnership with the local authority and employers. Schools and colleges will be able to play to their strengths in offering the qualifications, including diplomas, GCSEs, and A-levels, at which they excel. In addition, we have established an extensive package of support for those areas involved in the delivery of diplomas.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to simplify the diploma structure; and if he will make a statement. [194867]

Jim Knight: Diplomas have been designed by employers in collaboration with representatives from universities, schools and colleges to be attractive and engaging for learners. Through this extensive consultation, we have ensured that the diploma has a clear structure which comprises three key elements—principal learning, generic learning and additional and specialist learning. Principal learning will give students a strong grounding in the skills and knowledge relevant to the sector or subject of their choice. Generic learning will ensure young people develop the basic literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, and skills such as the ability to communicate clearly and to work well in teams which employers want and provide better research, independent study and critical thinking skills that the universities have told us they want. The only variable aspect of the diploma will be additional and specialist learning, which allows students to personalise their programme of study, adding breadth or depth from a range of different qualifications, including A-Levels and GCSEs. As with all major reforms, we recognise it will take time to become familiar with the new diploma offer and that is why we are introducing them in a phased and planned build up, working closely with local consortiums to ensure that schools and colleges are well prepared to teach the diplomas.

Specialised Diplomas: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the marks awarded for each diploma will be awarded on the basis of *(a)* internal assessment and *(b)* internal assessment of extended projects; and if he will make a statement. [194843]

Jim Knight: The majority of the assessment of the Diploma will be of a controlled internal nature, with some external assessment. Controlled internal assessment will account for a significant part of the assessment for Principal Learning from 87 per cent. at level 1 to 66 per cent. at level 3 depending on the Diploma line. Assessment for the Project will be undertaken locally. At each level the proportion of external assessment is specified, approximately 12 per cent., 20 per cent. and up to 30 per cent. at levels 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The Department has commissioned the National Assessment Agency (NAA) to develop a national approach which will ensure high standards across the internal assessment elements of the Diploma. This includes defining key roles that will support internal assessment at a local level and developing a good practice guide for centres that sets out the responsibilities of key assessor roles and provides examples of good practice in internal assessment. This information will be available in May 2008. In addition, NAA will design professional development programmes for teachers and trainers.

Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the ability of all schools in rural areas to offer access to all 17 diploma lines; and if he will make a statement. [194845]

Jim Knight: Diplomas will be taught by consortia of schools, colleges, and work-based learning providers, working in partnership with the local authority, employers, and higher education institutions. As such, not every school will be providing each diploma itself, but young people from those schools will be able to access diplomas in other consortium institutions, including in rural areas.

Sports: Capital Investment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding was allocated to sports facilities in schools in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [187069]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates capital to local authorities and schools, and then relies on the local community to prioritise how it is spent between school buildings, sports facilities, playing fields and other capital assets. Accordingly, it does not maintain central records on how much capital has been allocated to sports facilities or playing fields.

Since 1997, total capital allocations have increased from under £0.7 billion per annum to a planned £21.9 billion over the next three year period.

Teachers

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary school teachers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [195242]

(2) how many primary school teachers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [195323]

(3) how many teaching assistants were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195324]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of local authority maintained primary and secondary teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, north-east Government office region and England in each January, 1997 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent number of local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary school teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, north-east Government office region and England in each January, 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[1]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Jarrow[2]											
Nursery/ Primary	360	350	350	350	360	340	330	320	310	310	300
Secondary	300	300	310	320	340	360	350	350	350	360	360
Teaching Assistants	90	90	100	100	140	200	150	230	240	260	260
South Tyneside[3]											
Nursery/ Primary	700	690	690	640	680	660	630	630	610	590	580
Secondary	590	580	610	590	650	700	690	680	670	720	680

Full-time equivalent number of local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary school teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, north-east Government office region and England in each January, 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*[1]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Teaching Assistants[2]	160	160	160	180	250	350	280	420	440	470	440
North East[3]											
Nursery Primary	10,400	10,280	10,310	10,190	10,350	10,440	10,210	10,170	10,050	10,070	10,020
Secondary	10,790	10,650	10,640	10,740	11,070	11,380	11,340	11,270	11,430	11,440	11,450
Teaching Assistants[2]	2,870	2,990	3,130	3,450	4,280	4,010	5,060	5,630	6,430	6,930	7,450
England[3]											
Nursery/ Primary	191,670	190,100	191,120	193,100	194,960	197,370	197,430	196,640	196,270	198,190	197,100
Secondary	189,430	189,580	191,780	193,200	196,680	203,170	206,870	211,000	215,060	216,290	216,850
Teaching Assistants[2]	60,580	65,540	69,600	79,020	94,990	105,360	121,190	132,060	147,000	153,100	162,990

[1] A change of School Census collection method in 2002 may have caused some discontinuity in time series data.
[2] Source: School Census.
[3] Source: The annual survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schoolteachers there are; and how many of them have qualifications in physical education. [195430]

Jim Knight: There were 197,100 nursery and primary full-time equivalent regular teachers and 216,800 secondary teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England in January 2007, the latest information available. It is not known how many of these have qualifications in physical education.

Information on the number of secondary school teachers teaching physical education and the level of qualification they hold in the subject is available for England from the Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) which is an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures are expected to be published in May 2008.

The following table provides the number of full-time teachers employed in maintained secondary schools by the highest post A level qualification held in the subjects they teach in 2002 from SSCSS.

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

	Percentages						
	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] *held in the subjects they teach*[2] *to year groups 7-13, England*

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
	Percentages						
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Teachers: Resignations

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers under 60 years old have left the profession since 1997. [191304]

Jim Knight: Provisional estimates show that in March 2006 there were 104,580 qualified teachers under age 60 who had left the English local authority maintained sector since January 1997 and were still out of recorded service. This figure excludes teachers who have been awarded retirement benefits and includes those who have left service temporarily. An unknown number will be in service in other education sectors or establishments which are not part of the teachers' pensions scheme.

The information provided is from the database of teacher records which is maintained on behalf of the Department for pension administration purposes.

Teachers: Retirement

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers retired from the profession in each year since 1997. [195215]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the following website

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

using excel link "Additional tables giving information on teacher retirements". The information can be found in Table H1 of the workbook, copies of which have been placed in the House Libraries.

Table H1: Retirements from local authority maintained schools[1]*— Type of award by sex and year of award. Year: 1989-90 to 2006-07—Coverage: England*

	Premature [2]			*Age*			*Ill-health* [3]			*Total*		
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*
1989-90 [4]	3,220	4,840	8,060	960	2,550	3,500	1,270	2,310	3,580	5,440	9,700	15,140
1990-91 [4]	3,000	4,740	7,740	890	2,610	3,500	1,420	2,860	4,280	5,310	10,210	15,520
1991-92 [4]	2,470	4,070	6,530	810	2,360	3,170	1,390	2,640	4,030	4,660	9,070	13,730
1992-93 [4]	2,760	4,400	7,170	750	2,560	3,310	1,440	2,610	4,050	4,950	9,580	14,530

Table H1: Retirements from local authority maintained schools[1]*— Type of award by sex and year of award. Year: 1989-90 to 2006-07—Coverage: England*

	Premature [2]			*Age*			*Ill-health* [3]			*Total*		
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men and Women*
1993-94 [4]	3,180	4,860	8,030	850	2,580	3,430	1,840	2,990	4,820	5,860	10,420	16,290
1994-95 [4]	2,730	4,390	7,120	780	2,740	3,520	1,970	3,310	5,290	5,490	10,440	15,930
1995-96 [4]	3,360	5,240	8,600	760	2,720	3,480	1,870	3,290	5,160	5,990	11,250	17,240
1996-97 [4]	3,840	6,370	10,210	700	2,600	3,300	1,810	3,170	4,980	6,360	12,130	18,490
1997-98 [4]	4,350	7,020	11,370	810	2,770	3,580	1,200	2,070	3,260	6,350	11,860	18,210
1998-99 [4]	950	1,430	2,370	840	2,990	3,840	850	1,440	2,290	2,640	5,860	8,500
1999-2000 [4]	1,140	1,520	2,650	1,000	3,280	4,280	860	1,470	2,320	2,990	6,260	9,250
2000-01 [4]	1,270	1,890	3,160	1,000	3,240	4,240	1,040	1,590	2,630	3,300	6,720	10,020
2001-02 [4]	1,330	2,150	3,470	1,090	3,350	4,440	920	1,460	2,380	3,340	6,950	10,290
2002-03 [4]	1,510	2,450	3,960	1,290	3,720	5,010	770	1,260	2,030	3,580	7,420	11,000
2003-04 [4]	1,910	3,030	4,930	1,420	4,160	5,580	770	1,100	1,870	4,090	8,290	12,380
2004-05 [4,5]	2,400	3,660	6,060	1,660	4,830	6,490	620	950	1,580	4,690	9,440	14,120
2005-06 [4,5]	2,660	3,990	6,640	1,610	4,730	6,330	570	930	1,500	4,830	9,650	14,480
2006-07 [4,5]	2,950	4,510	7,460	2,000	6,300	8,300	390	700	1,090	5,340	11,510	16,850

[1] Excludes sixth form colleges.

[2] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension Scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997 than in previous years. Premature includes Actuarially Reduced Benefit retirements from 2000-01.

[3] Changes in the statutory regulations governing ill-health retirement came into force on 1 April 1997. To qualify for ill-health retirement benefits a teacher must now be regarded as permanently unfit to teach.

[4] All years are subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards and suspension of pension benefits where teachers return to service.

[5] 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provisional estimates.

Source:

Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS).

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 11 March 2008

HEALTH

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 19 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1438-42W, on sexually transmitted diseases, how many diagnoses there were of each disease per head of population in each year since 2000-01; and how many cases there were of each *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [190917]

[Official Report, 3 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 2105-08W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the first table that appeared in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 3 March 2008. The table should have read as follows:

Total number and rate of new STIs diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England; 2001-06

	Total number of new STI diagnoses[1]	*Rate of new STI diagnoses*[1]
2001	272,387	550.8
2002	291,910	588.0
2003	311,572	625.0
2004	325,783	650.4
2005	327,994	650.4
2006	335,123	664.51

[1] Includes those shown in the table that gives details on the rate of new diagnosis of selected STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics in England, per 100,000; 2001-06 and breakdown of confirmed positive chlamydia diagnosis among those aged 13-24 by year in England.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migrant Workers: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers there were in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Peterborough and *(c)* North East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last three years. [187207]

[Official Report, 22 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1081-84W.]

Letter from Angela Eagle:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Moss) on 22 February 2008. The correct version of the table supplied by the national statistician is as follows:

Number of migrant workers in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and North East Cambridgeshire in the last three years

	Cambridgeshire		*Peterborough*		*North East Cambridgeshire*	
12 months ending June each year	*Employment level (thousand)*[1]	*Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2]	*Employment level (thousand)*[1]	*Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2]	*Employment level (thousand)*[1]	*Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment*[2]
2005	29	10	10	13	3	5
2006	33	12	10	13	3	6
2007	41	15	14	19	4	9

[1] Includes males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

[2] Denominator for percentage does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because:

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).

it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:

Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 17 March 2008

HEALTH

Incontinence

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department has received since the deadline for comments on the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff from *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* others; and whether the views expressed in those letters will be taken into account when he considers the options for Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances - and related services - to Primary Care. [181986]

[Official Report, 29 January 2008, Vol. 471, c. 343W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leeds, North-West (Greg Mulholland) on 29 January 2008. Figures given in the table were incorrect. The table should have read as follows:

Type	*Number received after 28 December*
MP	153
Other	357
Total	510

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 18 March 2008

TRANSPORT

Topical Questions

Ruth Kelly: …The M25 is a quite long way down the procurement process on sections 1 and 3.

[Official Report, 4 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1589.]

Letter of correction from Ruth Kelly:

An error has been identified in an answer given by the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) in the course of the Department for Transport Oral Questions on 4 March 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Ruth Kelly:…The M25 is quite a long way down the procurement process on sections 1 and 4.

JUSTICE

Prison Building Programme

10. **Mr. Greg Hands** (Hammersmith and Fulham) (Con): What his most recent assessment is of progress on the prison building programme. [192762]

[Official Report, 11 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 139.]

Letter of correction from Jack Straw to Mr. Hands:

I am writing to apologise for an error in the oral answer I gave in response to your Parliamentary Question (192762) about progress of the prison building programme.

The 1,746 figure I gave during Justice Questions on Tuesday 11 March was an earlier calculation of the prison places already provided. However, a further 416 prison places came on stream on Monday 10 March giving a total of 2,162 prison places already provided.

Once again, I apologise for providing you with incorrect information.

I am arranging for copies of this letter and the correct answer to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 19 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the total capital receipts under the right to buy; what the effect of these in public sector borrowing has been; when the revenue received was spent; and what plans she has for the treatment of further revenues. [186841]

[Official Report, 21 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 905-07W.]

Letter from Iain Wright:

An error has been identified in the Written answer given to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 21 February 2008. The answer should have been:

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table answers my hon. Friend's question for the years since 1995-96. Information before that year is available only at disproportionate cost.

£ million

	Housing capital investment supported by CLG	*Right to Buy (RTB) Receipts*	*Set Aside/ Pooling*	*Investment greater than set-aside/ pooling*
1995-1996	[1]—	[1]—	860	[1]—
1996-1997	[1]—	[1]—	637	[1]—
1997-1998	1,894	890	943	951
1998-1999	2,098	911	1,085	1,013
1999-2000	2,173	1,374	1,477	696
2000-2001	2,866	1,426	1,626	1,240
2001-2002	3,312	1,566	1,382	1,930
2002-2003	3,598	2,210	1,857	1,972
2003-2004	4,685	2,936	No data	n/a
2004-2005	4,767	2,575	1,694	3,073
2005-2006	5,106	1,544	1,067	4,039
2006-2007	5,194	1,145	843	4,351
2007-2008	[2]5,597	No data	[3]770	No data

[1] Information available at only disproportionate cost

[2] Programmed expenditure

[3] Estimated pooled housipg capital receipts

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disabled People (Poverty)

Mrs. McGuire: ...There were fewer people on the benefit in 1997 than there are now because it was introduced in 1992, and even the most basic mathematics indicates that it would be nigh on impossible only four and a bit years after a benefit is introduced to have a significant number of people on it long term.

[Official Report, 11 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 20-21WH.]

Letter of correction from Anne McGuire:

An error has been identified in my speech during the Westminster Hall adjournment debate on Disabled People (Poverty) on 11 March 2008. The correct statement should have been:

Mrs. McGuire: ...There were fewer people on the benefit in 1997 than there are now because it was introduced in 1995, and even the most basic mathematics indicates that it would be nigh on impossible only two and a bit years after a benefit is introduced to have a significant number of people on it long term.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 20 March 2008

HEALTH

Dementia: Expenditure

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government funding was provided for medical research into dementia in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the health research budget this represented in each year. [184620]

[Official Report, 6 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1246-47W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 6 February 2008. Figures given in the table were incorrect. The table should have read as follows:

Expenditure on dementia research

	Department of Health (£ million)	*Medical Research Council (MRC) (£ million)*	*Total (£ million)*	*Expenditure as a percentage of NHS research and development and MRC budgets*
2001-02	2.9	6.6	9.5	n/a
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2	n/a
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5	n/a
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2	2.4
2005-06	18.3	6	24.3	2.2

n/a = not available

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantities of class A drugs were seized by *(a)* the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action group in 2005-06 and *(b)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07. [185388]

[Official Report, 7 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1388W.]

Letter from Vernon Coaker:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes) on 7 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Coaker: Information on the quantities of Class A drugs seized by the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action Group in 2005-06 is contained in HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Annual Report:

Heroin: 2,218kg

Cocaine: 15,341kg

Details of drug interdictions flowing from the Serious Organised Crime Agency's work are provided in SOCA's 2006-07 Annual Report:

Heroin: 1.5 tonnes

Cocaine: 73 tonnes